

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA



Justice

Annual Report
2023-24

Alberta 

Justice, Government of Alberta | Justice 2023–2024 Annual Report

©2024 Government of Alberta | Published: June 2024

ISBN 978-1-4601-6000-8

ISSN 2817-4526

Note to Readers: Copies of the annual report are available on the Alberta Open Government Portal website www.alberta.ca

Table of Contents

Preface	3
Minister’s Accountability Statement	4
Message from the Minister	5
Management’s Responsibility for Reporting	7
Results Analysis	9
Ministry Overview	10
Discussion and Analysis of Results	16
Performance Measure and Indicator Methodology	33
Financial Information	35
Reporting Entity and Method Consolidation	36
Ministry Financial Highlights	37
Supplemental Financial Information	43
Financial Statements of Other Reporting Entities	44
Other Financial Information	60
Annual Report Extracts and Other Statutory Reports	69

Preface

The Public Accounts of Alberta are prepared in accordance with the *Financial Administration Act* and the *Sustainable Fiscal Planning and Reporting Act*. The Public Accounts consist of the annual report of the Government of Alberta and the annual reports of each ministry.

The 2023-24 Annual Report reflects the 2023-26 Ministry Business Plans, the Government of Alberta Strategic Plan, as well as the ministry's activities and accomplishments during the 2023-24 fiscal year, which ended on March 31, 2024.

The annual report of the Government of Alberta contains *Budget 2023* Key Results, the audited Consolidated Financial Statements and Performance Results, which compares actual performance results to desired results set out in the government's strategic plan.

This annual report of the Ministry of Justice contains the Minister's Accountability Statement, the ministry's Financial Information and Results Analysis, a comparison of actual performance results to desired results set out in the Ministry Business Plan. This ministry annual report also includes:

- the financial statements of entities making up the ministry including the Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund, for which the minister is responsible; and
- other financial information as required by the *Financial Administration Act* and *Sustainable Fiscal Planning and Reporting Act*, as separate reports, to the extent that the ministry has anything to report.

All ministry annual reports should be considered along with the Government of Alberta Annual Report to provide a complete overview of government's commitment to openness, accountability, and fiscal transparency.

Minister's Accountability Statement

The ministry's annual report for the year ended March 31, 2024, was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Sustainable Fiscal Planning and Reporting Act* and the government's accounting policies. All the government's policy decisions as at June 4, 2024 with material economic or fiscal implications of which I am aware have been considered in the preparation of this report.

[Original signed by Honourable Mickey Amery, KC, ECA]

Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Alberta

Message from the Minister



Protecting the unique interests of Albertans and upholding the rule of law have always been paramount concerns of the Ministry of Justice. But our government's pursuit of these goals took on particular urgency in the 2023-24 fiscal year—and resulted in Alberta achieving several important victories on the national stage.

Following the Government of Canada's enactment of the *Impact Assessment Act* in 2019, Alberta's government made clear our belief that the act is not merely harmful to Alberta's economy, but also overreaches into provincial authority. We took our concerns to the Alberta Court of Appeal, which ruled 4-1 in our favour in May 2022. The federal government appealed this decision to the Supreme Court of Canada, and in October 2023 the Supreme Court found that the majority of the *Impact Assessment Act* was indeed unconstitutional. This was an important win for Alberta, one that will protect the prosperity of our oil and gas industry and affirm the principle that Alberta will resist any federal attempt at undermining our provincial jurisdiction. This verdict was by no means certain; it required a long and sustained effort from a large legal team within the ministry, and we are proud their work and expertise were ultimately rewarded.

Our ministry took the lead in pushing back against federal overreach in other ways—perhaps most visibly during Alberta Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) Teri Bryant's testimony before the Senate on October 23, alongside Saskatchewan CFO Robert Freberg. With only five minutes to lay out her case, Dr. Bryant offered a compelling, well-reasoned critique of federal Bill C-21 and the rationale behind new Alberta regulations to limit its impact on law-abiding Alberta firearms owners and businesses. Those regulations—the *Alberta Firearms Regulation* and the *Seizure Agent and Provider Licensing Regulation*—are symbolic of a wider effort on the part of the Alberta government to ensure the federal government stays in its lane and pulls back on its efforts to expand its constitutional jurisdiction over our province.

Meanwhile, here within our ministry we have continued to take steps to make Alberta's justice system more efficient and accessible to everyone in the province. In December, for instance, we rolled out the province's new Family Justice Strategy (FJS). Working closely with the Alberta Court of Justice and the Court of King's Bench of Alberta, we developed a new approach to family justice that aligns services in both courts, eliminating what had been a major source of confusion for Albertans who are simply trying to navigate divorce proceedings, child support, and other family law issues. The new FJS also financially supports workable, effective practices such as alternative dispute resolution, family court counseling, and parenting interventions that allow Albertans to resolve matters more quickly and inexpensively outside the court system.

In 2023-24, our government continued its strong support of restorative justice programs (including Youth Justice Committees), as well as the network of drug treatment courts, which currently operates in seven cities. Thanks to programs like these, we have been able to give victims and community members a voice in the resolution of criminal matters, as well as help offenders break free from the cycle of addiction and resulting criminal behaviour.

Our ministry recognizes that one way to increase public trust in our courts is to make sure individuals' dealings with the justice system are as simple and convenient as possible. The work being done under the Justice Digital umbrella has been at the forefront of this mission, allowing Albertans and counsel to conduct more and more court-related business electronically. In 2023-24, three new digital services were launched and will be continually improved as the roll-out

progresses: the Alberta Family Resolution Hub, which helps Albertans learn their options for resolving family disputes; the more specialized Alberta Court of Justice Criminal Scheduling Service and the Alberta Court of Justice Judicial Scheduling Service, which provide the courts with efficient and responsive systems for arranging trials and hearings.

During my time as minister, I have been continually impressed by the skill, the work ethic, and the spirit of collaboration exhibited by everyone employed within our ministry and the courts. Maintaining a fair and accessible justice system is a tremendous responsibility, and I am proud to see how seriously they have taken it on. Of course, there is always more to accomplish, and I look forward to seeing how far we have come at this time next year.

[Original signed by Honourable Mickey Amery, KC, ECA]

Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Alberta

Management's Responsibility for Reporting

The Ministry of Justice includes the Department of Justice and the Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund.

The executives of the individual entities within the ministry have the primary responsibility and accountability for the respective entities. Collectively, the executives ensure the ministry complies with all relevant legislation, regulations and policies.

Ministry Business Plans, annual reports, performance results and the supporting management information are integral to the government's fiscal and strategic plan, annual report, quarterly reports, and other financial and performance reporting.

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the accompanying ministry financial information and performance results for the ministry rests with the Minister of Justice. Under the direction of the Minister, I oversee the preparation of the ministry's annual report, which includes the financial information, performance results on all objectives and initiatives identified in the Ministry Business Plan, and performance results for all ministry-supported commitments that were included in the 2023-26 Government of Alberta Strategic Plan. The financial information and performance results, out of necessity, include amounts that are based on estimates and judgments. The financial information is prepared using the government's stated accounting policies, which are based on Canadian public sector accounting standards. The performance measures are prepared in accordance with the following criteria:

- Reliable – information used in applying performance measure methodologies agrees with the underlying source data for the current and prior years' results.
- Understandable – the performance measure methodologies and results are presented clearly.
- Comparable – the methodologies for performance measure preparation are applied consistently for the current and prior years' results.
- Complete – outcomes, performance measures and related targets match those included in the ministry's *Budget 2023*.

As Deputy Minister, in addition to program responsibilities, I am responsible for the ministry's financial administration and reporting functions. The ministry maintains systems of financial management and internal control which give consideration to costs, benefits, and risks that are designed to:

- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized, executed in accordance with prescribed legislation and regulations, and properly recorded so as to maintain accountability for public money;
- provide information to manage and report on performance;
- safeguard the assets and properties of the province under ministry administration;
- provide Executive Council, the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Justice the information needed to fulfill their responsibilities; and
- facilitate preparation of Ministry Business Plans and annual reports required under the *Sustainable Fiscal Planning and Reporting Act*.

Introduction

In fulfilling my responsibilities for the ministry, I have relied, as necessary, on the executives of the individual entities within the ministry.

[Original signed by Malcolm Lavoie, KC]

Deputy Minister of Justice

June 4, 2024

Results Analysis

Table of Contents

Ministry Overview.....	10
Operational Overview.....	11
Key Highlights.....	14
Discussion and Analysis of Results.....	16
Actions that Support the Priorities of the Government of Alberta Strategic Plan	16
Actions that Support Ministry of Justice 2023-26 Business Plan Outcomes	17
Outcome One: Albertans' freedoms and interests are protected	17
Outcome Two: Alberta's justice system is fair and accessible	20
Outcome Three: Albertans are supported in their interactions with the justice system	26
Performance Measure and Indicator Methodology.....	33

Ministry Overview

The Ministry of Justice helps ensure all Albertans have access to a fair and accessible justice system where the rule of law is upheld, and government undertakings are administered according to law. In collaboration with the judiciary, law enforcement, public safety, and health, the ministry provides programs and services that ensure access to justice and support the needs of Albertans involved in the justice system.

The ministry is responsible for the administration of the courts in Alberta and provides criminal prosecution services, as well as legal and related strategic services to the government. The Ministry of Justice also oversees the delivery of legal aid to Albertans through an agreement with the Law Society of Alberta and Legal Aid Alberta. Further, it supports the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in its role in providing forensic death investigations into sudden, unexpected, or unexplained deaths in Alberta. The ministry supports the administration of federal firearms legislation, advocates for Alberta’s lawful firearms owners, and promotes firearms safety through the Alberta Chief Firearms Office.

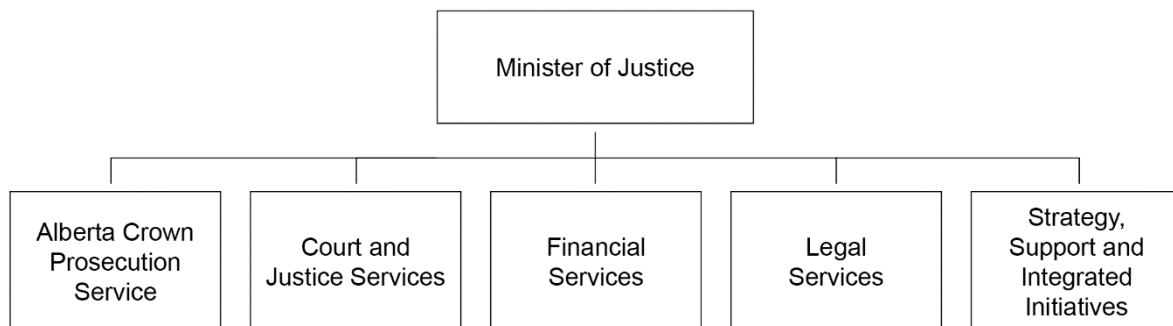
Additionally, the Ministry of Justice provides programs and services to help Albertans address their legal issues, including family law matters. This includes information services, referrals, dispute resolution, and court assistance. The ministry further supports Albertans dealing with family law issues by collecting and enforcing court-ordered child, spousal, and partner support.

In collaboration with other ministries and community organizations, the ministry supports the delivery of alternatives to traditional judicial processes, including diversion and restorative justice programs and specialized courts that provide a therapeutic and culturally appropriate approach to justice. The ministry also provides and facilitates culturally relevant programming and initiatives to support Indigenous people in contact with the justice system.

In 2023-24, the ministry worked to achieve the following outcomes:

- **Outcome 1:** Albertans' freedoms and interests are protected.
- **Outcome 2:** Alberta’s justice system is fair and accessible.
- **Outcome 3:** Albertans are supported in their interactions with the justice system.

Organizational Structure



Operational Overview

The Ministry of Justice comprises five operating divisions: Alberta Crown Prosecution Service, Court and Justice Services, Financial Services, Legal Services, and Strategy, Support and Integrated Initiatives.

Operating Divisions

Alberta Crown Prosecution Service

The Alberta Crown Prosecution Service is responsible for prosecuting persons charged under the *Criminal Code*, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, and provincial statute offences.

The Alberta Crown Prosecution Service handles criminal appeals in the Court of Appeal of Alberta and the Supreme Court of Canada on behalf of Alberta's attorney general. Additionally, the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service develops criminal law policy for its Crown prosecutors and supports criminal law consultation with other provinces, territories, and the Government of Canada.

The authority to conduct prosecutions, including all the discretionary decisions that must be made in every case, originates with the office of the attorney general. With this role also comes the duty to remain independent. Crown prosecutors are appointed to act for the attorney general and administer justice at the local level. The attorney general empowers agents to perform their prosecutorial duties through these appointments.

Court and Justice Services

Court and Justice Services provides resolution and court administration services to Albertans with legal issues, as well as court services to support the operations of Alberta's three courts. The division's broad range of services includes information services, referrals to legal resources, dispute resolution, and court assistance. Court and Justice Services also facilitates the enforcement of court-ordered child, spousal, and partner support. The division supports Albertans in family, surrogate, civil, criminal, and traffic matters by facilitating fine payments, document filing, scheduling, and trials.

The division implements policies, programs, and legislative and regulatory initiatives related to several areas focused on the courts, judicial officers, and justice services.

Financial Services

Financial Services provides a full range of support functions for the ministry, including compliance oversight, budgeting, auditing, procurement, change management, accommodation, fleet, and emergency management services. These services are provided to the entire ministry to establish and maintain strategic priorities and optimize operating efficiency while ensuring division, ministry, and Government of Alberta goals are aligned.

Legal Services

Legal Services supports the minister in fulfilling the minister's role as attorney general, including providing legal advice to the premier and cabinet. The division provides legal and related strategic advice and representation to the Government of Alberta and supports the administration of public affairs according to the law. With a comprehensive understanding of the government's legislative and regulatory frameworks, policy objectives, and key programs, Civil Crown Counsel (solicitors and litigators) within the division provide legal representation for, and legal advice to, all government departments. The division's Legislative Counsel Office drafts legislation, regulations, and orders-in-council.

Strategy, Support and Integrated Initiatives

Strategy, Support and Integrated Initiatives provides a number of supports for government business and public-facing programs, including the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and the Alberta Chief Firearms Office. The division supports strategic policy and planning, engagement, enterprise change management, modernization, service innovation and digitization, research, evaluation, data analytics, and strategic reporting.

The division also manages and is responsible for the Alberta Law Libraries, and official documents and appointments, including notaries public, commissioners for oaths, and the documentation authentication programs. The division coordinates access to justice-related programming and initiatives, including restorative justice, specialized courts, and Indigenous policy and services. In addition, the division provides planning, development and implementation of legislation, regulations, and other legal instruments. The division provides governance and oversight of agencies, boards, and commissions, and oversight of a tri-partite agreement with the Law Society of Alberta and Legal Aid Alberta in delivering legal aid to Albertans.

Agencies, Boards, and Commissions

Alberta Human Rights Commission

The Minister of Justice is responsible for the *Alberta Human Rights Act*, which establishes the Alberta Human Rights Commission. Reporting to the minister, but independent of the Government of Alberta, the commission protects human rights across the province by resolving complaints made under the *Alberta Human Rights Act*. Human rights tribunals adjudicate complaints that cannot be resolved. The commission works to eliminate discrimination and barriers to full participation in society through education and community engagement. The chief of the commission and tribunals, members of the commission, and the director of the commission are appointed through orders-in-council.

Alberta Law Libraries Board

The Alberta Law Libraries Board is responsible for making recommendations about Alberta Law Libraries, setting policy governing their operation, and maintaining oversight of the law library system. Four members are appointed by the board, one ministry representative is appointed by the Deputy Minister of Justice, and two are appointed by Law Society of Alberta representatives.

Criminal Code Review Board

The Criminal Code Review Board makes or reviews dispositions concerning any accused adult or young person for whom a verdict of “not criminally responsible because of mental disorder” or “unfit to stand trial” is rendered, according to the provisions of the *Criminal Code*. The board is also responsible for determining whether such a person should be subject to a detention order or granted either a conditional or an absolute discharge. The board members are appointed through an order-in-council.

Fatality Review Board

The Fatality Review Board is responsible for reviewing investigations under the *Fatality Inquiries Act*. The board determines whether there is a need to hold a legal proceeding before a justice of the Alberta Court of Justice that helps clarify the circumstances of a death (known as a public fatality inquiry). The board also reviews complaints concerning misbehaviour, incompetence, or neglect of

duty by medical examiners or the inability of medical examiners to perform their duties under the *Fatality Inquiries Act*. The board members are appointed through an order-in-council.

Judicial Council

The Judicial Council considers proposed appointments of persons as applications judges, justices of the Alberta Court of Justice, and justices of the peace, and reports its recommendations to the Minister of Justice. In addition, the Judicial Council has jurisdiction to deal with complaints against applications judges, justices of the Alberta Court of Justice, and justices of the peace, and establishes rules relating to conflicts of interest and a code of ethics relating to these positions. The Judicial Council comprises six members, two of whom are appointed by a ministerial order and four designated under the *Judicature Act*.

Notaries Public Advisory Committee

The Notaries Public Advisory Committee reviews applications for notary public appointments and makes recommendations to the minister. The committee acts as an appeal panel and monitors lay notaries' appointments. Members are appointed by a ministerial order.

Provincial Court Nominating Committee

The Provincial Court Nominating Committee makes recommendations to the Minister of Justice regarding the appointment of individuals to the Alberta Court of Justice. The committee comprises 11 members, eight of whom are appointed by ministerial order, and includes representatives from the legal profession and members of the public. The remaining three committee members are the chief justice of the Alberta Court of Justice, the president of the Law Society of Alberta, and the president of the Canadian Bar Association (Alberta Branch) or their representatives. The Provincial Court Nominating Committee considers candidates for appointment as justices of the Alberta Court of Justice and justices of the peace and reports its recommendations to the Minister of Justice.

Rules of Court Committee

The Rules of Court Committee makes recommendations to the Minister of Justice on the Alberta Rules of Court, which deals with civil litigation, family law, and civil appeals. The Family Law Rules Advisory Subcommittee makes recommendations to the committee for improvements to the existing family law rules, as well as other rules and forms used in family law matters in the Court of King's Bench of Alberta and the Court of Appeal of Alberta. The Family Law Rules Advisory Subcommittee also makes recommendations to the chief justice of the Alberta Court of Justice for changes to family law process and forms in that court. Additionally, the Surrogate Rules Advisory Subcommittee makes recommendations to the Rules of Court Committee for improving the rules and forms used in wills and estate and other surrogate matters in the Court of King's Bench of Alberta.

Key Highlights

The Ministry of Justice focused on accomplishing three outcomes identified in the 2023-26 Ministry Business Plan:

- Albertans’ freedoms and interests are protected.
- Alberta’s justice system is fair and accessible.
- Albertans are supported in their interactions with the justice system.

Key highlights and results achieved by the Ministry of Justice in 2023-24 include:

<p>Continue to advocate for law-abiding firearms owners</p>	<p>Enabled two regulations—the <i>Alberta Firearms Regulation</i> and the <i>Seizure Agent and Provider Licensing Regulation</i>—to leverage Alberta’s jurisdictional powers over firearms policy and limit federal overreach.</p> <p>The Alberta chief firearms officer appeared before the Senate to testify against Bill C-21, <i>An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)</i>, building on arguments made in 2022-23, and outlining the impact of these changes on law-abiding firearms holders, businesses, and stakeholder groups.</p>
<p>Continue to defend the constitutional jurisdiction of the province</p>	<p>To protect Albertans’ constitutional rights, Alberta successfully challenged the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i> in the Court of Appeal of Alberta and defended against Canada’s appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Canada. On October 13, 2023, the Supreme Court of Canada found the majority of the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i> to be unconstitutional.</p>
<p>Utilize court and prosecution services efficiently and effectively</p>	<p>Continued to implement a pre-charge assessment system that ensures investigative materials are reviewed by a Crown prosecutor before police determine whether to lay charges. The system has been introduced to 83 police services since 2019.</p>
<p>Enhance support for courts and court administration and access to justice</p>	<p>Enhanced supports for Alberta’s courts to improve service delivery and access to justice for Albertans. Enhancements included: filling vacancies and creating new judicial positions, new judicial assistants, and new legal support positions; improving staff training and development; consolidating services in provincial teams to create efficiencies; and allowing wills written in French to be probated without translation.</p>
<p>Continue to implement digital transformation</p>	<p>Three new digital services launched in 2023-24, including: Alberta Family Resolution Hub; Alberta Court of Justice Criminal Scheduling Service; and Alberta Court of Justice Judicial Scheduling Service.</p>

Enhance restorative justice practices	Continued the development of a provincial restorative justice program to facilitate meaningful resolution between victims, offenders, and the community, and allow offenders to take accountability for their actions outside of the traditional justice system.
Increase services and supports to Albertans with legal family matters	Implemented a Family Justice Strategy in Edmonton and Calgary to make the family justice system more accessible and ease stress on Albertans dealing with matters in family court.
Reduce red tape	Enabled amendments to the <i>Provincial Offences Procedure Act</i> to support a shift to fully digital justice solutions and extend the timeframe for laying a charge from six months to 12 months. Amendments will improve access to justice for Albertans and improve accountability in the justice system. Amendments were introduced under the <i>Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2024</i> as part of the government's commitment to reduce unnecessary red tape.

The Ministry of Justice remains committed to regulatory approaches and program delivery that reduces unnecessary government oversight and emphasizes outcomes, to improve access to government services, attract investment, support innovation and competitiveness, and grow Alberta businesses.

Discussion and Analysis of Results

Actions that Support the Priorities of the Government of Alberta Strategic Plan

Government of Alberta Strategic Plan Key Priority One: Securing Alberta's Future

Objective four: Securing a fair deal for Alberta within a united Canada.

Justice Action:

- Advancing the mandate of the Alberta Chief Firearms Office, which includes advocating for federal legislation that supports law-abiding firearms owners and enabling regulations to ensure Alberta has input into the execution of federal firearms confiscation activities occurring within the province.

Detailed reporting on this action can be found on pages 18-19.

Government of Alberta Strategic Plan Key Priority Two: Standing Up for Albertans

Objective seven: Enhancing the justice system.

Justice Actions:

- Continuing implementation of a pre-charge assessment system aimed at reducing the number of cases entering the court system that do not meet the threshold for prosecution and ensuring valuable court time is scheduled for viable matters only.
- Implementing strategies to make the justice system more responsive to the needs of Albertans by supporting:
 - Edmonton Mental Health Court and Alberta's seven drug treatment courts, which offer alternatives to incarceration and support accused persons in addressing the complex problems underlying their offending behaviour while still holding them accountable.
 - Engagement with justice system stakeholders, restorative justice services providers, and Indigenous organizations to identify components required to develop a provincial restorative justice program.
- Supporting the development of a Family Justice Strategy to make the family justice system more accessible and help families resolve their matters without appearing in court.

Detailed reporting on these actions can be found on pages 20-21, 27-28, 29-30 and 31, respectively.

Actions that Support Ministry of Justice 2023-26 Business Plan Outcomes

Outcome One: Albertans' freedoms and interests are protected

The Ministry of Justice is committed to ensuring Albertans' freedoms and interests are protected by challenging federal laws or policies that negatively impact them. The ministry challenged the federal *Impact Assessment Act*, the federal government's use of the *Emergencies Act*, and the proposed federal firearms confiscation program to strengthen Alberta's legal position as it works to protect Albertans from federal intrusion into various areas of sovereign provincial jurisdiction.

The ministry also enabled two regulations under the *Alberta Firearms Act* to demonstrate that Alberta stands with law-abiding firearms owners.

Key Objectives

1.1 Take actions to stand up for Albertans, including improving firearms licence processing time and preparing legislation to protect provincial jurisdiction with respect to the regulation of firearms.

Impact Assessment Act

In 2023-24, the Ministry of Justice challenged the federal *Impact Assessment Act* in the Court of Appeal of Alberta and defended against Canada's appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC). On October 13, 2023, the SCC issued its opinion, with the majority finding that the *Impact Assessment Act* was unconstitutional. This opinion supports the protection of sovereign provincial rights under the Constitution. Recognizing that amendments are being considered, provinces can move forward with greater certainty on critical infrastructure projects with the judicial confirmation that provincial critical infrastructure projects are not subject to federal oversight and approval as the *Impact Assessment Act* attempted to authorize.

The ministry also partnered with other Canadian provinces and territories to push back against unconstitutional federal efforts. Alberta participated as an intervener in Ontario's application seeking a declaration that the *Impact Assessment Act* does not apply to provincial projects for the reasons of the SCC. The Federal Court set the designation of the Highway 413 project aside, agreeing with Ontario that the federal minister of Environment and Climate Change acted beyond his constitutional jurisdiction in designating this project as within the scope of the *Impact Assessment Act*.

Alberta will continue to partner with other willing provinces and interveners in pushing back against these unconstitutional federal efforts using all legal means available.

Toxic Substances

Alberta also intervened in several Federal Court judicial review applications challenging the constitutionality of a federal regulation that listed single-use plastics as a "toxic substance." On November 16, 2023, the court struck down the federal regulation as being unreasonable and unconstitutional. However, on December 8, 2023, Canada filed a Notice of Appeal and was granted a stay of the Federal Court's decision pending the outcome of the appeal. Alberta intervened in Canada's appeal and filed its written submission in March 2024. The hearing before the Federal Court of Appeal is scheduled for June 2024.

Zero Emissions Vehicle Standards

Alberta notified the parties of its intention to apply for leave to intervene in a case challenging the federal government’s recently enacted zero emissions vehicle standards (ZEV Standards). Valero Energy Inc. has commenced a proceeding in the Superior Court of Quebec seeking judicial review of the ZEV Standards, which it argues are an unconstitutional and unreasonable exercise of federal legislative authority.

Alberta Chief Firearms Office

In 2021, in response to a key recommendation from the Fair Deal Panel, the province established its own Alberta Chief Firearms Office (ACFO) to administer the Canadian Firearms Program (CFP) and appointed a chief firearms officer.

As part of the foundational work conducted by the ACFO, in 2023-24, the ministry enabled two regulations under the *Alberta Firearms Act* to:

- require municipalities, police services, and police commission to receive written approval from Alberta’s Minister of Justice and Attorney General before entering into funding agreements or accepting funding from the federal government to take part in the federal firearms confiscation program; and
- require individuals or organizations, including police officers, to first be licensed by the province.

Quick Fact

In 2023-24, Alberta enabled two new regulations under the *Alberta Firearms Act*.

- Alberta Firearms Regulation, AR 85/2023; and
- Seizure Agent and Provider Licensing Regulation, AR 92/2023.

A Special Investigations and Integrated Operations (SIIO) unit, the first of its kind in Canada, was also established to address firearms crime, including the growth in 3D printed “ghost guns” and other unlawfully manufactured firearms, illegal domestic transfer of firearms into the province, and other sensitive criminal firearms investigations. Since its inception, the SIIO unit has supported police throughout Alberta in 139 cases related to firearms trafficking or illegal firearms manufacturing investigations. The SIIO has also worked closely with the Edmonton Police Service on a special project related to expired or revoked Possession and Acquisition License (PAL) holders still in

possession of firearms, with the aim of bringing firearm owners back into compliance or assisting owners to lawfully dispose of the firearms, if desired.

Since its establishment, the ACFO has experienced continuous growth in the number of firearms licence applications and eligibility investigations. Over the past year, the ACFO began addressing a cumulative backlog inherited by Alberta when the federal firearms program was transferred from federal to provincial administration. The actual expenditures for 2023-24 were \$6.1 million.

Oppose Federal Legislation

The ministry remains committed to protecting provincial jurisdiction with respect to the regulation of firearms. In 2023-24, the ACFO publicly opposed:

- Bill C-21, *An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)*;

- the May 2020 federal order-in-council, which categorized certain firearms as prohibited; and
- the proposed federal firearms confiscation program.

The Alberta chief firearms officer appeared before the Senate to testify against Bill C-21, building on arguments made in 2022-23, and outlining the impact of these changes on law-abiding firearms holders, businesses, and stakeholder groups.

Alberta also sought and was granted intervener status in six Federal Court challenges to the May 2020 federal order-in-council. However, in October 2023, the Federal Court dismissed the challenges and upheld the constitutionality of the federal regulation. The decision was appealed to the Federal Court of Appeal, and the matter is currently before the courts. Alberta has applied to intervene in these appeals to protect the interests of law-abiding firearms owners in Alberta.

Performance Measure 1.a:

Percentage of Possession and Acquisition Licences (new and renewal) for Albertans that are processed within the target timeline

Prior Years' Results				2023-24 Target	2023-24 Actual
2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23		
Not available	Not available	45%	52%	60%	63%

This measures the effectiveness of CFP service delivery to Albertans through the ACFO in reviewing, investigating, and completing these PAL applications. The measure accounts for factors beyond ACFO control, such as client court scheduling and capacity issues resulting from the unpredictability of extraordinary federal changes to legislation and associated regulations.

As of March 31, 2024, 10,415 PAL applications for Albertans were awaiting processing. Sixty-three per cent of PAL applications currently in the collective queue (at federal units or with the ACFO) have been there for less than 100 days, which is three per cent above the 2023-24 target of 60 per cent and 11 per cent higher than in 2022-23.

This performance measure has been amended since it first appeared in the 2023-26 Ministry of Justice Business Plan in order to: simplify the description; achieve technical accuracy around “restricted” and “prohibited” licences, which are categories of privileges attached to PALs; and align with operational changes implemented to accommodate the transition of addition CFP services from federal units.

1.2 Take steps to ensure that Alberta’s constitutional areas of responsibility and Albertans’ Charter rights are not infringed upon.

Emergencies Act

The Ministry of Justice continued to support Alberta’s participation in the ongoing Public Order Emergency Commission process that examines the federal government’s use of the *Emergencies Act* in February 2022. Alberta participated as an intervener in the judicial reviews filed by the Canadian Constitution Foundation and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, challenging the federal government’s use of the *Emergencies Act*.

In January 2024, the Federal Court released its decision that the issuance of emergency orders under the *Emergencies Act* was unreasonable and a contravention of the Act. This court decision reaffirmed that regulations under the Act violated Charter rights to freedom of expression, and that the orders infringed upon the rights of Albertans, and Canadians to be free from unreasonable search and seizure.

The federal government appealed the decision. On March 13, 2024, Alberta applied for permission to intervene in both appeals and is awaiting the decision of the Federal Court of Appeal.

1.3 Work with the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services to review the delivery of policing services in the province, including further examination of a provincial police service.

The Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services reports on this key objective.

Outcome Two: Alberta's justice system is fair and accessible

The ministry continues to ensure that Albertans have access to a fair, effective, and sustainable justice system. The Ministry of Justice strives for just and timely outcomes for the accused, victims, and the public in criminal offences, and work continues to improve the efficiency of Crown prosecutions and court resources. Increases to the Alberta Court of Justice civil claims limit have been introduced to strengthen Alberta's justice system by helping to reduce costs for Albertans and free up time and resources in the Court of King's Bench of Alberta. Enhanced supports for Alberta's courts, including hiring additional judicial clerks, are reducing wait times and improving service delivery to Albertans.

New online services and other technical solutions are streamlining processes and making it easier for Albertans to access the justice system in different ways. Transformative initiatives, including Justice Digital and the Advanced Projects and Traffic Office, allow for online transactions and virtual interactions, increasing access to justice, and creating efficiencies for Albertans and the courts.

Key Objectives

2.1 Improve Albertans' access to justice and ensure a sustainable justice system that utilizes court and prosecution resources efficiently and effectively.

Pre-Charge Assessment System

The ministry is working with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada to implement a pre-charge assessment system with law enforcement agencies across the province. This system will enhance communication between police and Crown prosecutors earlier in the process, resulting in stronger cases that are less likely to collapse in court, making better use of the court system's limited capacity, and ensuring the most serious cases proceed with minimal delay. Pre-charge assessment is expected to reduce the number of cases entering the court system that do not meet the prosecution standard, reducing court file volumes and the associated burdens on all criminal justice system stakeholders.

Quick Fact

The pre-charge assessment system has reduced the number of charges entering the criminal justice system by 20 per cent in locations using the process.

The pre-charge assessment system requires investigative materials to be reviewed by a Crown prosecutor before police decide whether to lay charges. This ensures evidence required to support a prosecution is complete and available as soon as possible. Where evidence does not meet the threshold for prosecution, or where there is no public interest, charges do not proceed against an individual and Albertans who would otherwise have paid to retain counsel or use legal aid for court appearances are not required to attend.

In 2023-24, the ministry spent \$0.2 million to further enhance the technology supporting pre-charge assessment, which leverages the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service's internal records management system to facilitate the transmission of documents from law enforcement to Crown prosecutors for pre-charge review. This system, along with pre-charge assessment, was introduced to 62 police services in 2023-24 and a total of 83 since 2019. Implementation with the RCMP is expected to be completed in early 2024-25. An investment of \$4.6 million will support the addition of 16 pre-charge assessment Crown prosecutors. Recruitment for these positions is being phased in to align with the rollout of the system to law enforcement.

**Performance Measure 2.a:
Alberta Court of Justice lead time to trial for serious and violent matters**

Prior Years' Results				2023-24 Target	2023-24 Actual
2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23		
24.4 weeks	23.9 weeks	26.8 weeks	25.0 weeks	24.0 weeks	22.9 weeks

In 2023-24, the lead time to trial for serious and violent matters in the Alberta Court of Justice was 22.9 weeks, which was approximately one week under the target of 24 weeks. This is an 8.4 per cent decrease compared to the 25-week lead time to trial for serious and violent matters in 2022-23.

Lead time to trial for serious and violent matters is a direct measure of the court's availability to process these types of criminal cases in the Alberta Court of Justice. In 2016, the SCC released a decision involving the right to trial within a reasonable time (*R v Jordan*). The decision established that trials must be heard within 18 months after charges are laid for a province's main entry point into the court system (Alberta Court of Justice) unless exceptional circumstances justify it. Alberta Court of Justice lead times for serious and violent matters are well below this timeline (22.9 weeks), and the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service continues to monitor serious and violent cases to determine if they are at risk of exceeding the new time restrictions. The impact of court closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic has lessened, staffing levels in the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service are stabilizing, and the rollout of pre-charge assessment continues.

A variety of factors may contribute to case processing times in the Alberta Court of Justice, including factors relating to the accused, such as types of charges and whether they have legal representation. There are also factors relating to the operation of courts, such as the availability of court resources.

The Alberta Crown Prosecution Service and the Alberta Court of Justice have worked to collectively implement several policy and program changes to reduce serious and violent case lead time to trial, including the Court Case Management Program, hiring 50 new Crown prosecutor positions, and implementing a pre-charge assessment system. The impact of amendments to federal legislation on lead time, including the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and the *Criminal Code* (Bill C-75, *An Act to amend*

the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act, and other Acts and to make consequential amendments to other Acts), continues to be monitored. The trends reflect the cumulative impact of the initiatives and factors mentioned above.

**Performance Indicator 2.b:
Number of *Jordan* applications granted**

Prior Years' Results					Cumulative Total as of March 31, 2024
2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	
8	7	3	4	2	44

Note: Tracking for *Jordan* applications began in October 2016 (October 2016-March 2017). Totals for prior years have been updated to reflect the outcome of pending cases and any concluded appeals. Applications granted between October 2016 and March 2018 are included in the cumulative total.

The number of *Jordan* applications granted within a fiscal year ranged from two to eight between 2019-20 and 2023-24. As of March 31, 2024, 44 cases (out of 450 applications and several hundred thousand cases that entered the system) were stayed by the courts due to unreasonable delay since October 2016, when tracking began. From April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, thousands of new charges entered the system; of these, 27 applications were filed, two were granted by the court, and eight proactively stayed by the Crown on the basis that they would not survive the application.

The ministry monitors lead time for serious and violent cases to determine if they are at risk of exceeding the *Jordan* timelines. Investments in the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service, including competitive compensation and the implementation of a pilot program to provide psychological counselling for work-related trauma, are helping improve the recruitment and retention of Crown prosecutors. The continued rollout of pre-charge assessment is also expected to help reduce lead time in the Alberta Court of Justice.

New King’s Bench Justice Appointments

The ministry is increasing judicial capacity to ensure serious criminal matters proceed to trial within required *Jordan* timelines, and support timely access to justice for Albertans with civil and family matters. Judicial positions in the Court of King’s Bench of Alberta are created by the province but funded and filled by the federal government. In 2023-24, the ministry successfully petitioned the federal government to fill judicial vacancies, resulting in the appointment of 12 justices to the Court of King’s Bench of Alberta, including two new positions in Grande Prairie and Red Deer.

The ministry continues to work with the federal government to fund and fill four new judicial vacancies on the Court of King’s Bench of Alberta that the province created in 2021 and 2022.

Civil Claims Streamlining

The ministry is improving access to justice for Albertans involved in small claims lawsuits. On August 1, 2023, the limit for civil claims filed in the Alberta Court of Justice increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000, making it easier for Albertans to represent themselves in civil claims matters, including property damage, personal injury, and breach of contract. The limit increase means more matters can be heard in the Alberta Court of Justice, which uses simplified and cost-effective

processes and is located in 72 communities throughout the province. Making the civil claims process faster and easier for Albertans also frees up time in the Court of King's Bench of Alberta to hear other important matters. From August to December of 2023, 625 claims above the original \$50,000 limit were filed in the Alberta Court of Justice. The civil claims mediation service is available for parties with a civil claim in the Alberta Court of Justice to further assist Albertans.

Enhanced Supports for Courts and Court Administration

In 2023-24, work was completed to enhance supports for Alberta's courts and ensure Albertans have improved access to justice. A total of \$6.0 million was spent to expand and improve videoconferencing, maintain and replace audio-visual equipment, and update digital displays in many of Alberta's courthouses. Judicial clerk vacancies were filled in the Court of King's Bench of Alberta and the Alberta Court of Justice, and positions were created to support new justices in both courts, including judicial assistants and support positions for justices.

A judicial clerk training program was established to ensure our judicial clerks are appropriately trained and developed in these complex and demanding roles, which provide essential supports for the efficient functioning of Alberta's courts. A new training unit is now in place consisting of a workforce development specialist and four judicial clerk learning coaches to deliver a new training program, which will consist of online training materials, virtual training sessions, and in-person learning opportunities. Enhancements were made to support off-site juries, which included leasing space and providing staff for up to five jury courtrooms at the Bonaventure Gate Writing Centre in Edmonton. In some locations, technology was added to existing courtrooms to provide extra capacity for jury trials.

Significant progress was made to enhance operations in the courts through Justice Digital, as well as other process improvements. In the Court of King's Bench of Alberta, some services, such as invoicing and civil provincial filing (a Justice Digital service), were consolidated to help streamline filing practices and reduce the number of documents returned to Albertans unfiled due to error, enhancing service delivery for Albertans. Increased efficiencies resulting from the Civil Digital Filing Service and the Surrogate Digital Service have allowed staff to focus on reducing backlogs, resulting in significant improvements to document processing times, from an average of three months to 24 to 72 hours in most areas of the province. In the Alberta Court of Justice, the expansion of case management offices (CMOs) to the five remaining base court locations in Alberta provided efficiencies in court appearances throughout the province. The expansion of CMOs also provided accessibility through Justice Digital tools such as Adjournment Digital Services and establishes the foundation for the development and deployment of other Justice Digital tools.

2.2 Continue to implement digital transformation to reduce administrative burden and improve Albertans' access to justice, including increasing the availability of online services such as remote hearings.

Justice Digital

In 2023-24, the ministry spent \$12.9 million to further expand services launched through Justice Digital in previous years and launched three new digital services:

- Alberta Family Resolution Hub – This service, which went live in July 2023, is available province-wide and provides a digital self-serve option to guide self-represented litigants to appropriate alternative dispute resolution and court options based on their unique family situations. The service provides access to information and resources to help Albertans resolve their family matters. For more information about the Alberta Family Resolution Hub, see the results analysis for Key Objective 3.3.

- Alberta Court of Justice Criminal Scheduling Service – This service, which went live in October 2023, will allow counsel and their legal assistants to remotely schedule most adult criminal matters for Alberta Court of Justice courtrooms as an alternative to scheduling at local CMOs. Counsel can access self-service searches for file information through this service and can track the status of their scheduling request in real time.
- Court of King’s Bench of Alberta Filing Digital Service – This service, introduced in July 2021, was expanded in 2023-24 to allow: filing for hearings scheduled in Civil Justice Chambers in Edmonton (July 2023); counsel to manage their own account information including withdraw a submission prior to review by the clerk (August 2023); residential tenancy officers to submit originating and subsequent orders to the court (October 2023); qualifying counsel to submit civil filings for all Court of King’s Bench of Alberta locations (November 2023); all commercial list matters (e.g., contested and uncontested receivership applications) (December 2023); and filing for hearings scheduled in Civil Justice Chambers in Calgary (March 2024).
- Court of King’s Bench of Alberta Family and Divorce Filing Digital Service – This service was introduced in December 2022 to allow lawyers and legal assistants to file desk divorce application packages. In November 2023, the service was expanded to include *Family Law Act* document filing in Edmonton and Calgary, including approximately 60 supporting documents.
- Alberta Court of Justice Judicial Scheduling Service – This service, which went live in December 2023, allows scheduling of the judiciary using an integrated digital system that shows a calendar view of judicial commitments, assignments, and availability. This service increases efficiency by replacing a paper-based scheduling process with a digital application.

The Alberta Family Resolution Hub, Alberta Court of Justice Criminal Scheduling Service, and Alberta Court of Justice Judicial Scheduling Service joined eight existing services for a total of 11 online services introduced through the Justice Digital initiatives since its establishment in 2020. Improvements made in 2023-24 are highlighted below.

Alberta Family Resolution Hub	Approximately 7,063 users (e.g., self-represented litigants) accessed the Alberta Family Resolution Hub, and 527 requests for assistance were completed.
Alberta Court of Justice Criminal Scheduling Service	More than 5,500 counsel searches were conducted.
Alberta Court of Justice Courtroom Adjournment Digital Service	More than 19,000 online adjournment requests were submitted online, reducing court processing time by 66 per cent since its introduction in August 2021.
Alberta Court of Justice Courtroom Digital Service	More than 1.5 million digital endorsements on court files were completed through this service, reducing data entry for clerks by 90 per cent since its introduction in April 2021.
Alberta Court of Justice Courtroom Traffic Ticket Digital Service	More than 90,000 matters were handled by this service.

Alberta Court of Justice Judicial Scheduling Service	Functionality is still being refined based on initial feedback from users in the central region.
Court of King's Bench of Alberta Court Case Management Service	Approximately 105 commercial list hearings were scheduled online, reducing filing time by 96 per cent since its introduction in March 2022.
Court of King's Bench of Alberta Filing Digital Service	More than 193,373 documents were filed using this service, reducing filing time by 97 per cent since its introduction in July 2021.
Court of King's Bench of Alberta Filing Family and Divorce Filing	Approximately 5,262 applications were submitted, and over 4,310 divorce judgments completed through this service.
Court of King's Bench of Alberta Surrogate Digital Service	More than 11,600 probate applications were digitized and approximately 10,550 grants of probate were issued and released to counsel through this service, reducing processing time by 90 per cent since its introduction in June 2022.
Transcripts Digital Service	More than 18,500 transcripts orders were completed through this service.

Performance Measure 2.c:**Number of court and justice services available online through Justice Digital**

Prior Years' Results				2023-24 Target	Cumulative Total as of March 31, 2024
2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23		
Not available	3	6	8	12	11

Note: Justice Digital was introduced in March 2020; therefore, historical results do not exist before 2020-21.

Online services allow Albertans to manage their own interactions with the justice system from any device and location, rather than visiting a courthouse during set business hours.

In 2023-24, three new digital services were introduced through Justice Digital: Alberta Family Resolution Hub, Alberta Court of Justice Criminal Scheduling Service, and Alberta Court of Justice Judicial Scheduling Service. Work commenced on the development of a fourth new digital service, the Alberta Court of Justice Family Filing Service, which will allow self-represented litigants to file select *Family Law Act* documents remotely. This work is expected to advance in future years as part of a renewed digital strategy aimed at providing the most efficient and effective way for Albertans to access the courts.

Advanced Projects and Traffic Office

Within the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service, the Advanced Projects and Traffic Office was established to modernize all traffic court prosecutions to meaningfully address the needs of Albertans, the prosecution service, court administration, and law enforcement. Custom technology has been created to support fully digital disclosure by law enforcement, allow Albertans to manage their traffic matters online, and enable the courts to convert to digital services fully.

Quick Fact

The Advanced Projects Information System eliminates approximately 7,600 in-person visits to courthouses each month.

The Advanced Projects and Traffic Office e-ticketing system, the Advanced Projects Information System, is available to all law enforcement agencies across the province, marking the first time every law enforcement agency can issue e-tickets. E-disclosure enables fully digital disclosure on all traffic court matters. The Advanced Projects and Traffic Office is also responsible for the Traffic Tickets Digital Service, which provides Albertans with a single portal where they can fully manage their traffic ticket matters, including making full and partial fine payments, requesting

time to pay, requesting and viewing disclosure, engaging in resolution discussions with the Crown, and pleading not guilty. This service provides Albertans with access to most prosecution and court options no matter where they live, and is available online 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The modernization of traffic matters reduces the need for in-person attendance at courthouses, saving Albertans time and reducing delays and errors associated with the paper process. The Advanced Projects Information System eliminates in-person visits to courthouses each month, saving Albertans time and money and freeing up court staff to attend to other important matters.

In 2023-24, \$2.0 million was spent on the continued development, enhancement, and deployment of the modernization of all traffic court prosecutions.

Outcome Three: Albertans are supported in their interactions with the justice system

The ministry is committed to improving supports for Albertans during their interactions with the justice system. Recognizing the complex factors that can lead individuals to be involved with the justice system, the ministry continues to support and grow targeted programs, including mental health and drug treatment courts, which provide wrap-around supports while holding offenders accountable. The ministry is committed to supporting programs that help victims, offenders, and communities affected by crime reach meaningful resolutions. Increasing access to online information and pre-court services, such as dispute resolution, empowers Albertans to resolve family matters outside the courtroom. The ministry is also working to enhance the death investigation process to ensure timely closure for families following the death of their loved ones.

Key Objectives

3.1 Work with the courts and other stakeholders to develop options for individuals and families interacting with the justice system who could benefit from targeted services, interventions, and supports where appropriate.

Specialized Courts

The ministry continued to support Albertans in contact with the justice system through the use of specialized courts. Specialized courts recognize that legal problems are often connected to issues

stemming from family violence, poverty, mental health issues, and drug addiction, and attempt to address underlying issues rather than just deciding guilt.

Drug Treatment Court

Drug treatment court is an intensive court-supervised program that holds participants accountable for their crimes and provides targeted supports to address their drug addiction and the criminal behaviours associated with their substance abuse. Participants are supported by individualized treatment plans and social supports that empower them to manage their drug addiction and avoid criminal lifestyles. Drug treatment courts hold offenders accountable through intensive supervision, while offering supports and services to help participants address addiction issues and reintegrate into the community effectively. Drug treatment courts better serve offenders, their victims, communities, and the justice system through their integrated approach to rehabilitation. According to data from Alberta's drug treatment court programs (2014-2019), approximately 55 per cent of drug treatment court participants graduate, and an estimated 70 per cent will not reoffend.

Quick Fact

Drug treatment courts are located in:

- Calgary
- Edmonton
- Fort McMurray
- Grande Prairie
- Lethbridge
- Medicine Hat
- Red Deer

In 2023-24, \$4.0 million was allocated to the operation of drug treatment courts, with actual expenditures of \$3.5 million due to lower than anticipated program utilization. This funding supported contracts with community organizations that manage drug treatment courts and provided drug treatment and intervention services for program participants.

Performance Indicator 3.a:

Number of individuals admitted to drug treatment court

Prior Years' Results				2023-24 Actual
2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	
56	49	55	73	84

Since 2020, the ministry has doubled capacity in the Calgary and Edmonton drug treatment courts and opened additional drug treatment courts in Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Grande Prairie, and Fort McMurray to increase access across the province.

Drug treatment court utilization rates have been affected by changes to federal legislation, specifically Bill C-5, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, and the elimination of mandatory minimum penalties for eligible offences, which have decreased the number of applications to drug treatment courts. Program applicants must be facing a minimum sentence of one year; with penalties being reduced, there were fewer offenders facing the required sentence to meet the threshold for admission to the program. Increasing program awareness and highlighting benefits for participants with community networks, including local defence counsel and other justice stakeholders may increase applicants.

Drug treatment courts offer an effective option to reduce crime driven by drug addiction, providing opportunities for offenders and communities to heal. These efforts are expected to help the ministry reach the 2026-27 target of 80 per cent utilization. Drug treatment courts have the

capacity and funding to support their existing service level and any anticipated increases in admissions in 2024-25.

Mental Health Court

The mental health court is a specialized court structured to address matters in which offenders with mental health issues connected to their criminal behaviour can be diverted from the traditional justice system and have their mental health issues supported by a network of health and social supports in the community. Alberta operates one mental health court in Edmonton that acts as a justice hub for local mental health and community services. This court provides a venue where these services can be better coordinated in keeping with the principles of the Alberta Recovery Model. Mental health court offers a gradual court process that allows legal and health professionals to make recommendations to the court on addressing the complex problems underlying offending behaviour, while still holding the individual accountable.

There is no specific government funding attached to this court beyond the internal existing resources provided to the program from the Ministry of Justice, the courts, Alberta Health Services, and Legal Aid Alberta. Instead, the mental health court relies on nursing and psychiatric resources provided by Alberta Health Services to provide in-court support for participants, and direct assessment and referrals to community mental health services.

Indigenous Court Work Program

The Indigenous Court Work Program continues to help improve access to justice through the provision of information to resolve legal issues. The goal of the program is to ensure that Indigenous people receive fair, equitable, and culturally responsive treatment in court. The program provides Indigenous litigants or accused persons, their families, and Indigenous victims with services or assistance before, during, and after the court process. Indigenous court workers provide information to Indigenous clients; explain the nature and possible consequences of the matter; explain the person's rights, responsibilities, and options (but do not give legal advice); and explain the disposition or direction given by the court. In addition, Indigenous court workers organize or assist with activities that promote restorative justice programs and public legal education within the local Indigenous community. Indigenous court workers refer Indigenous clients, families, or victims to appropriate legal, social, education, employment, treatment, counselling, or other appropriate resources. The program assists in reducing the number of Indigenous accused in custody by providing the court with release strategies that address an accused person's bail plan, including judicial interim release reports informed by Gladue-principles for Indigenous people in custody at Edmonton Remand Centre and accused persons having their case heard at the Edmonton Indigenous Court and other rural circuit courts. The Indigenous bail workers assist Indigenous accused persons in trauma-informed and culturally appropriate ways to develop and present fair, equitable, and culturally relevant bail plans that increase the accused person's success at meeting bail plan conditions.

In 2023-24, expenditures for the Indigenous Court Work Program totalled \$5.5 million.

Gladue Report Program

Quick Fact

In 2023-24, the court ordered 906 Gladue reports.

This program supports the courts in determining appropriate sentences for Indigenous offenders. *Gladue* reports outline *Gladue* factors, including an offender's unique history, intergenerational trauma caused by residential school experiences, historical trauma, effects of colonization, and socio-economic circumstances that the court must take into consideration during sentencing. This program supports

compliance with the *Criminal Code* and the Supreme Court of Canada decisions in *Gladue* and *Ipeelee*, which require the court to consider *Gladue* factors in sentencing. *Gladue* reports are one way of supporting access to justice, as well as fair and equitable treatment of Indigenous people involved in the justice system.

In 2023-24, expenditures for the Gladue Report Program were \$0.9 million. Annual spending is based on the number of reports ordered by the courts. In 2023-24, 906 *Gladue* reports were ordered by the court.

3.2 Implement strategies to make the justice system more responsive to the needs of Albertans, including the use of restorative justice practices to help victims, offenders, and communities affected by conflict or crime reach reconciliation.

Restorative Justice

Restorative justice is an approach to resolving disputes that addresses the harm caused by crime or conflict and promotes meaningful resolutions. It provides opportunities for those in conflict to come together and discuss the conflict, hold those responsible for harms caused accountable, and decide the most appropriate ways to repair the harms done with the input of the community. It empowers victims and communities to take a larger role in justice processes and provides offenders meaningful consequences for their criminal behaviour, while providing them with supports to reduce the likelihood of future harm. By using this diversionary process and allowing time for pre-charge and pre- and post-sentence referrals, restorative justice aims to reduce the use of the courts, decrease the cost, and increase the timeliness of resolution.

Quick Fact

In 2023-24, the ministry funded 16 restorative justice programs that provided services to approximately 500 participants.

The ministry continues to support community restorative justice programs and empower Indigenous offenders and other cultural groups overrepresented in the justice system to use traditional cultural and justice practices that bring healing to communities. Throughout 2023-24, engagements were conducted with justice system stakeholders, restorative justice services providers, and Indigenous organizations to identify and implement components required to develop the provincial restorative justice program.

The restorative justice program will include an administrative system for program referrals, standards of practice and training requirements, a service delivery model, and a comprehensive evaluation framework for restorative justice practices. Funding was provided to the Alberta Restorative Justice Association, Indigenous communities, and organizations to develop recommendations on how to structure these components. These recommendations are expected by the end of 2024. Once implemented, the provincial program will evaluate the effectiveness and impact of restorative justice in the province, including offender recidivism, victim satisfaction, and community well-being.

In 2023-24, expenditures totalled \$0.2 million for engagement and restorative justice program development.

Youth Justice Committees

The ministry continues to oversee the operation of the province's Youth Justice Committees. These committees are formally designated pursuant to section 18 of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and are comprised of volunteers who operate as local youth justice advisory groups in partnership with the youth criminal justice system. Alberta's Youth Justice Committees provide sentencing

recommendations to the justice, assist young persons in determining and fulfilling extrajudicial sanctions agreements, take referrals directly from police as part of extrajudicial measures, convene a conference under Section 19 of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, and provide information to the public on the work of the committees and programs available for youth in their community. Conferences may be convened by a *Youth Criminal Justice Act* justice, the provincial director, a police officer, a justice of the peace, a Crown prosecutor, or a youth worker. Conferences allow the convener to give advice on appropriate extrajudicial measures, conditions for judicial interim release, and sentences, or to make a decision required to be made under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.

There are 46 Youth Justice Committees in the province supported by approximately 400 volunteers. In 2023-24, the ministry provided \$0.4 million to support committees in Alberta.

Indigenous Court

The ministry continues to support the court-led Indigenous court to help address the over-representation of Indigenous people in the justice system, and to provide justice services that reflect the culture, values, and traditions of Indigenous persons. The Calgary Indigenous Court and the Edmonton Indigenous Court provide a culturally relevant, restorative, and holistic system of justice for Indigenous individuals, including offenders, victims, and the community harmed by an offender's actions. Alberta also has circuit courts located on Nation land at Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, Siksika Nation, and Tsuut'ina Nation. The Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation uses a restorative court model that promotes community involvement in the court process. The courthouse on Siksika Nation has its own courtroom on Nation land, a judge of Indigenous heritage who sits regularly, and a dedicated Crown prosecutor who supports the provision of culturally sensitive prosecution service.

There is no specific government funding beyond the internal existing resources provided to the court by the Ministry of Justice. These programs rely heavily on services provided in the community by local social, addiction, mental health, and Indigenous-serving agencies.

Alberta Community Justice Grant

The Minister of Justice initiated the new Alberta Community Justice Grant in 2023-24. The grant follows a community-justice lens and is recognized as an innovative alternative to the formal legal system by emphasizing the resolution of legal issues within a community setting. The purpose of the grant is to recognize the active engagement of the community in empowering residents and organizations.

The grant provides a formal and enhanced unification of community-based programs that work to prevent matters from entering further into the justice system. It builds a framework to increase the use of community-based services and offers supports to enhance the capacity and overall effectiveness of these initiatives. The grant call was open from January 30, 2024, to February 29, 2024, with funding ranging between \$5,000 and \$25,000 for a 12-month term. Thirty-nine organizations from across Alberta received grants totalling almost \$1.0 million, including seven applicants from Calgary, nine applicants from Edmonton, five from Southern Alberta, 12 from Central Alberta, and six from Northern Alberta. Eleven applicants serve criminal matters, four applicants serve family matters, and 24 applicants serve multiple areas of law (criminal, civil, or family). There were 12 Indigenous-based organizations and one senior-serving organization.

3.3 Work with the courts and other stakeholders to develop a new family justice strategy to improve services and supports to Albertans with legal family matters.

In 2023-24, the ministry allocated \$5.0 million to expand pre-court services under the Family Justice Strategy. The ministry worked collaboratively with the Alberta Court of Justice and the Court of King's Bench of Alberta to create the strategy, which focuses on four key goals:

- Provide better outcomes for children and families in Alberta.
- Ensure access to justice for all Albertans.
- Divert matters from the court by encouraging early resolution.
- Use current court resources more efficiently.

The Family Justice Strategy is making the family justice system more accessible and easing the stress on Albertans dealing with matters in family court. By expanding information, support, and dispute resolution options, the Family Justice Strategy ensures Albertans have access to a range of services to help resolve matters outside the courtroom. The Family Resolution Hub, an online tool introduced under the strategy, is making it easier for Albertans to explore their options by providing information and assistance with navigating family law matters.

The Family Justice Strategy was implemented in Edmonton and Calgary on December 18, 2023. As part of the strategy, the Alberta Court of Justice and the Court of King's Bench of Alberta implemented four mandatory pre-court requirements to support safe and early resolution whenever possible. These requirements include: completion of the online Parenting After Separation Course (if applicable); meeting with a family court counsellor (for self-represented parties with dependent children); providing financial disclosure; and participating in an alternative dispute resolution process. Albertans must complete the mandatory requirements or apply to waive or defer requirements before starting a family law action or filing a new application. This helps align services in the Alberta Court of Justice and the Court of King's Bench of Alberta, so that Albertans can access the same types of services no matter which court they attend.

Early results show more Albertans accessing available services and supports, and more families resolving issues outside of courtrooms. Going forward, the strategy will continue utilizing the existing pre-court requirements, update existing processes, and determine possible expansion to additional locations in the province based on feedback and ongoing evaluations.

3.4 Implement enhancements to policies and procedures, as well as recruitment, to improve the death investigation process in Alberta.

The ministry is taking steps to improve death investigation processes in Alberta and ensure timely closure for families following the death of their loved ones. Death investigations can take significant time to complete and require lengthy medical examination reports. In January 2024, a short form version of the report was created to help families receive more timely reports in some cases. In addition, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has improved procedures and is developing a quality management program. These actions are expected to increase efficiencies and support alignment with international standards and best practices to ensure that Albertans and their loved ones receive the highest standard of service.

Ongoing recruitment efforts to support timely completion of cases and keep medical examiner workloads within established standards are underway.

In 2023-24, actual expenditures to support the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner totalled \$19.6 million. Expenditures included \$11.5 million for salaries and benefits and \$8.1 million for supplies and services, including expenses attributed to fee-for-service pathologists contracted to offset a shortage of medical examiners.

**Performance Measure 3.b:
Percentage of Office of the Chief Medical Examiner cases completed within 60 days.**

Prior Years' Results				2023-24 Target	2023-24 Actual
2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23		
29%	26%	11%	10%	20%	3%

In 2023-24, three per cent of cases were completed within 60 days, 17 per cent less than the target (20 per cent), and seven per cent less than in 2022-23. In addition to staffing shortages, a steady increase in the number of cases since 2020 has created a backlog and has negatively affected case completion times. Since 2021, significant efforts have been made to improve the death investigation process, including: consultation with forensic pathology experts from other provinces; the implementation of casework efficiencies, such as updating operating procedures and policies; prioritizing homicide, Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, and pediatric files; accessing electronic medical records; and using an e-payment system. In addition, a new organizational structure was developed that included additional positions, and work commenced on the development of new internal guidance policies and policy supports. Changes are expected to improve case completion rates over time and support progress toward achieving the 2025-26 target of 60 per cent of cases completed within 60 days.

Performance Measure and Indicator Methodology

Performance Measure 1.a: Percentage of Possession and Acquisition Licences (new and renewal) for Albertans that are processed within the target timeline.

Source: COGNOS data reporting system managed and owned by the RCMP.

Reports are generated on a monthly basis using COGNOS, the reporting tool that extracts data from the federal firearms system. These reports provide a snapshot of Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL) processing times for applications in Alberta. The percentage of PALs processed within the target timeline is calculated annually using the formula: (Number of Albertan PAL applications (new and renewal) awaiting processing for <100 days) divided by (Number of Albertan PAL applications (new and renewal) awaiting processing) x 100.

Performance Measure 2.a: Alberta Court of Justice lead time to trial for serious and violent matters

Source: Ministry of Justice Administrative Data, Alberta Crown Prosecution Service and Court and Justice Services

Alberta Court of Justice lead time to trial for serious and violent matters is the average number of weeks between the date serious and violent cases are set for trial and the date that the trial or hearing is scheduled to occur. This average is not impacted by the trial or hearing not proceeding on the date scheduled. This measurement of lead times includes only serious and violent *Criminal Code* charges. Serious and violent crimes include: sexual offences against children; possessing/publishing/creating/distributing/selling child pornography; criminal negligence; manslaughter; murder; discharging of firearms; administering a noxious thing; dangerous driving; dangerous operation of a motor vehicle; impaired driving causing bodily harm or death; criminal harassment; threats; assault; sexual assault; kidnapping; human trafficking; robbery with violence/assault/weapon; intimidation; and arson.

The ministry uses data from the Justice Online Information Network (JOIN) to calculate the Alberta Court of Justice lead time. The time between the date a case is set for trial and the date that the trial or hearing is scheduled to occur is obtained for each case that involves a serious and violent crime. The average lead time is then calculated for all cases with serious and violent offences in that year.

Performance Indicator 2.b: Number of *Jordan* applications granted

Source: Ministry of Justice Administrative Data, Alberta Crown Prosecution Service

A report is generated from JOIN on a weekly basis to identify the cumulative cases where a *Jordan* application is filed with the Alberta Court of Justice and the Court of King's Bench of Alberta. This information is tracked and monitored continuously using the Prosecutor Information System Manager and Scheduling Management System and follow-up with the *Jordan* prosecution coordinators. The status of *Jordan* applications as they make their way through the judicial system is reported to the executive leadership of the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service on an annual basis. The number of successful *Jordan* applications annually is calculated by subtracting the total of cumulative successful applications as of March 31 of the previous fiscal year from the total of cumulative successful applications identified on March 31 of the current fiscal year.

Performance Measure 2.c: Number of court and justice services available online through Justice Digital

Source: Ministry of Justice Administrative Data, Court and Justice Services

This figure represents the number of court and justice services made available online through Justice Digital status reporting. Regular biweekly status reports outlining the progress of each digital service under development as well as services that are fully operational, are maintained by the Justice Digital Program Management Office.

Performance Indicator 3.a: Number of individuals admitted to drug treatment court

Sources: Administrative Data – Calgary Drug Treatment Court; Edmonton John Howard Society; McMan Youth, Family and Community Services (Lethbridge Drug Treatment Court); McMan Youth, Family and Community Services (Medicine Hat Drug Treatment Court), John Howard Society of Red Deer (Central Alberta Drug Treatment Court), John Howard Society of Grande Prairie (Grande Prairie Drug Treatment Court), and Pastew Place Detoxification Centre Society (Fort McMurray Drug Treatment Court).

The number of individuals admitted to drug treatment court is the aggregate of the number of participants reported by each provincial drug treatment court during the fiscal year. Each drug treatment court tracks clients as part of an administrative process. This fiscal year, the total includes data from Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Central Alberta, Grande Prairie, and Fort McMurray drug treatment courts.

Performance Measure 3.b: Percentage of Office of the Chief Medical Examiner cases completed within 60 days

Source: Ministry of Justice Administrative Data, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner case data is maintained in the Medical Examiner Data Information Centre (MEDIC), the office's electronic case management information system. This performance measure examines completed files and measures the number of days from when a file is opened to when the file is completed using the formula: $(\text{number of cases completed within 60 days} / \text{number of all cases completed}) \times 100$. At the end of each quarter and fiscal year, custom scripts are developed in accordance with these specifications that utilize the MEDIC datamart to generate performance measure results.

Financial Information

Table of Contents

Reporting Entity and Method Consolidation	36
Ministry Financial Highlights.....	37
Statement of Revenues and Expenses (unaudited).....	37
Revenue and Expense Highlights.....	38
Breakdown of Revenues (unaudited)	40
Expenses – Directly Incurred Detailed by Object (unaudited)	42
Supplemental Financial Information	43
Tangible Capital Assets (unaudited).....	43
Financial Statements of Other Reporting Entities	44
Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund	45
Other Financial Information.....	60
Statement of Compromises and Write-Offs	62
Civil Law Legal Services Delivery (unaudited).....	63
Fine Activity Information (unaudited)	64
Statement of Credit or Recovery (unaudited)	65
Lapse/Encumbrance (unaudited)	66
Payments Based on Agreements	68

Reporting Entity and Method Consolidation

The financial information is prepared in accordance with government's stated accounting policies, which are based on Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.

The reporting entity is the ministry for which the Minister of Justice is accountable. The accounts of the ministry, which includes the department of Justice and the Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund, are fully consolidated using the line-by-line method, with the accounting policies described below.

Under this method, accounting policies of the consolidated entities are adjusted to conform to government accounting policies and the results of each line item in their financial statements (revenue, expense, assets and liabilities) are included in government's results. Revenue and expense, capital, investing and financing transactions and related asset and liability balances between the consolidated entities have been eliminated.

A list of the individual entities making up the ministry are shown on the "Management's Responsibility for Reporting" statement included in this annual report.

Ministry Financial Highlights

Statement of Revenues and Expenses (unaudited)

End of the year March 31, 2024

	2024		2023	Change from	
	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	2023 Actual
<i>In thousands</i>					
Revenues					
Federal government grants	\$ 27,134	\$ 34,748	\$ 28,686	\$ 7,614	\$ 6,062
Premiums, fees and licences	30,280	27,090	26,054	(3,190)	1,036
Investment income	1,095	1,171	2,468	76	(1,297)
Other	197,432	152,414	167,593	(45,018)	(15,179)
Ministry total	255,941	215,423	224,801	(40,518)	(9,378)
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	(4,000)	(220)	(323)	3,780	103
Adjusted ministry total	251,941	215,203	224,478	(36,738)	(9,275)
Expenses - directly incurred					
Programs					
Ministry Support Services	9,115	9,012	7,633	(103)	1,379
Court and Justice Services	260,395	251,669	242,710	(8,726)	8,959
Legal Services	65,833	56,837	43,789	(8,996)	13,048
Alberta Crown Prosecution Service	129,098	133,960	131,390	4,862	2,570
Strategy, Support & Integrated Initiatives	187,488	194,757	156,632	7,269	38,125
Alberta Human Rights	7,037	7,349	6,911	312	438
Ministry total	658,966	653,584	589,065	(5,382)	64,519
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	(513)	(517)	(29)	(4)	(488)
Adjusted ministry total	658,453	653,067	589,036	(5,386)	64,031
Annual Deficit-before inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	(403,025)	(438,161)	(364,264)	(35,136)	(73,897)
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	(3,487)	297	(294)	3,784	591
Adjusted annual deficit	\$ (406,512)	\$ (437,864)	\$ (364,558)	\$ (31,352)	\$ (73,306)

Revenue and Expense Highlights

Revenues

Budget to Actual

Ministry revenues in 2023-24 are \$215.4 million, which is \$40.5 million or 16 per cent lower than budgeted. The decreased revenues are mainly the result of:

- \$42.8 million less than budget in Fines and Penalty, primarily due to lower than anticipated payments of *Traffic Safety Act* tickets.
- \$4.0 million less than budget due to delay in assets transfer related to Justice Services Technology Renewal initiative.
- \$2.2 million less than budget primarily due to court, transcript and other fees being less than anticipated.

Offset by:

- \$7.6 million increase in federal government grants for Legal Aid Alberta, Indigenous Court Work Program and drug treatment court.
- \$1.6 million increase in Maintenance Enforcement Program primarily due to higher than anticipated subrogated revenue.

Actual to Actual

Actual revenues in 2023-24 reflect a decrease of \$9.4 million or 4 per cent:

- \$16.1 million decrease in Fines and Penalty, primarily due to lower *Traffic Safety Act* tickets issued and paid.

Offset by:

- \$6.1 million increase in federal government grants for Legal Aid Alberta, Indigenous Court Work Program and drug treatment court.
- \$0.6 million net increase related to court fees, maintenance enforcement and other miscellaneous revenues.

Expenses

Budget to Actual

The total operating expense in 2023-24 was \$653.6 million, which is \$5.4 million or 1 per cent lower than budget.

- \$9.0 million under budget in Legal Services primarily due to delays in hiring and implementation of civil Crown counsel salary parity.
- \$8.7 million under budget in Court and Justice Services primarily for hiring delays.

Offset by:

- \$4.9 million over budget in Alberta Crown Prosecution Service primarily due to salary pressures for Crown prosecutors and increase in supplies and service needs.

-
- \$7.3 million over budget in Strategic, Support and Integrated Initiatives, primarily due to increases in Legal Aid Alberta grants and grants for Access to Justice and Indigenous initiatives.
 - \$0.1 million remaining variance due to over budget in Alberta Human Rights for technology costs, offset by under spending in ministry support services for witness fees being lower than budget.

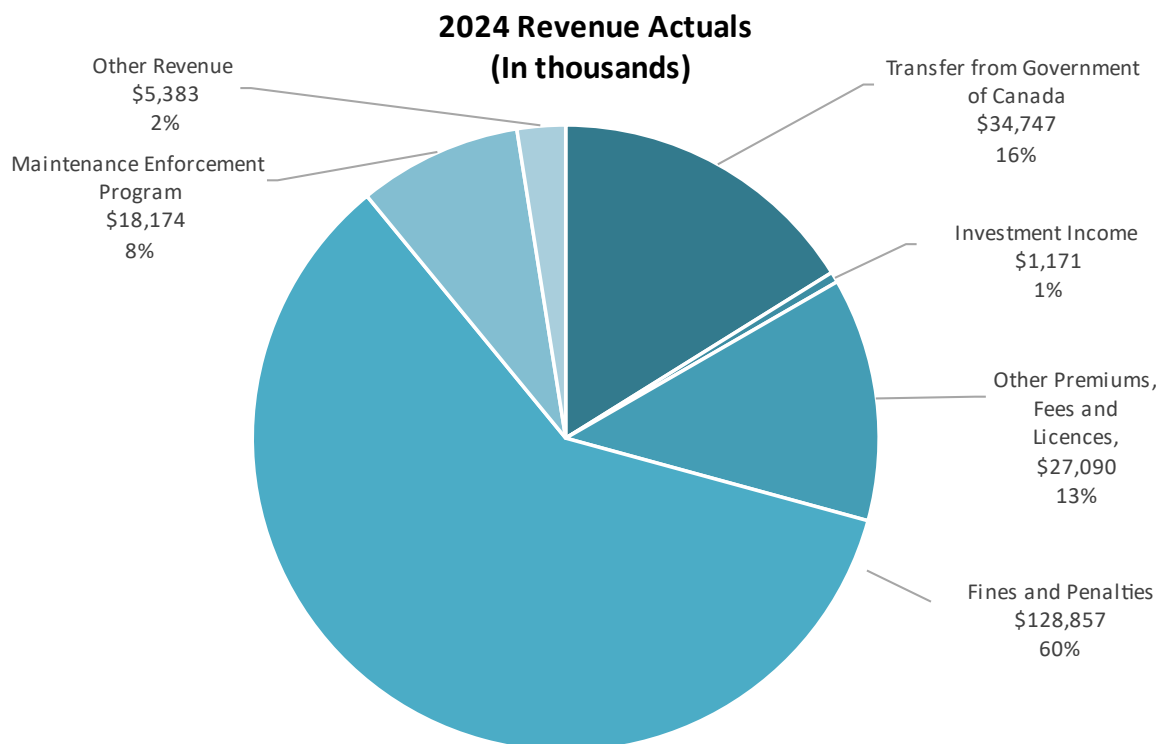
Actual to Actual

Actual operating expenses were \$64.5 million, or 11 per cent higher than 2022-23. The increase in expenses is mainly the result of:

- \$38.1 million increase in Strategy, Support and Integrated Initiatives, primarily due to increase in grant payment to Legal Aid Alberta, grants for Access to Justice and Indigenous initiatives and enhanced delivery service in the Alberta Chief Firearms Office.
- \$13.0 million increase in Legal Services primarily due to increase in hiring and salary increase for Civil Crown counsel parity.
- \$9.0 million increase in Court and Justice Services, primarily due to retroactive judiciary compensation.
- \$2.6 million increased in Alberta Crown Prosecution Service, primarily due to more Crown prosecutors in current year.
- \$1.4 million increase in ministry support services primarily due to transfer of witness fees program from Alberta Crown Prosecution Service and higher shared service cost.
- \$0.4 million increase in Alberta Human Rights for higher technology costs.

Breakdown of Revenues (unaudited)

The following information presents detailed revenues of the ministry. The objective of detailed revenues disclosure is to provide information that is useful in understanding and assessing the financial impact of government’s revenue raising and for enhancing legislative control. Revenues are presented prior to inter-ministry consolidation adjustments.

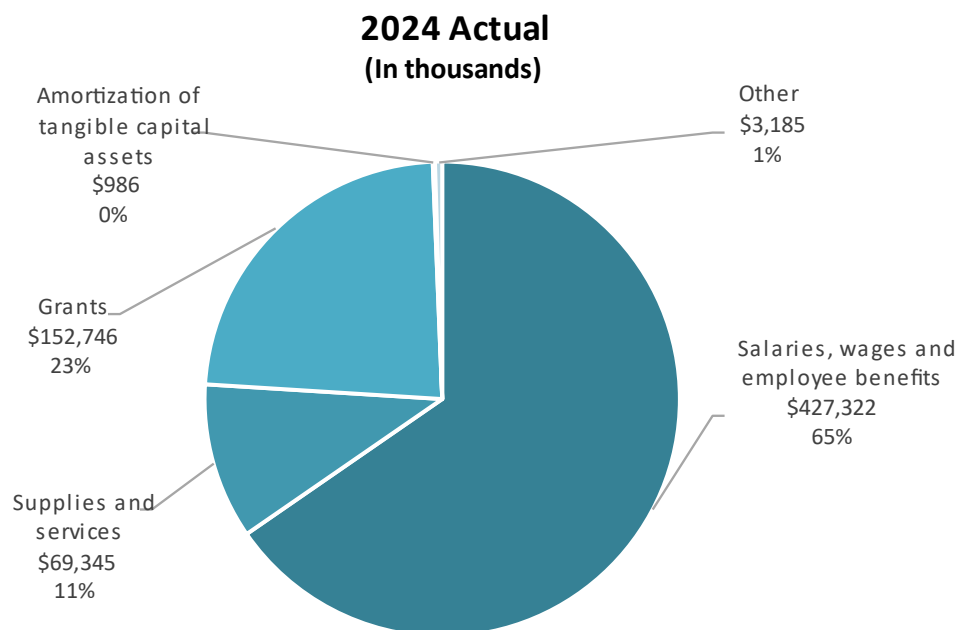


- **Fines and Penalties** (\$128.9 million). Overall, *Traffic Safety Act* fines make-up the majority of this category, and includes the following:
 - Ticket Processing Retention fee – 40 per cent of all *Traffic Safety Act* fines across the province, as well as the full amount of fines levied by Highway Traffic Sheriffs on Alberta highways; and
 - Late Payment Penalty collected when tickets not paid on time.
- **Transfers from Government of Canada** (\$34.7 million). Revenue from federal agreements, primarily in support of Legal Aid Alberta, Indigenous Court Work Program, Child Centered Family Justice and drug treatment court.
- **Other Premiums, Fees, and Licences** (\$27.1 million). Court and Justice Services is responsible for collecting fees for some of the services provided to the public, including bankruptcy, civil commencement, trial, search, surrogate and transcript fees, official documents and appointments application and license fees, medical examiner autopsies and toxicology fees.
- **Maintenance Enforcement** (\$18.2 million). Revenues comprised mainly of amounts subrogated by the Crown’s Family Support Order Services for the Maintenance Enforcement Program.

- **Other Revenue** (\$5.4 million). Revenues from unclaimed amounts, bail forfeited, and other miscellaneous revenue.
- **Investment Income** (\$1.2 million). Interest earned on the Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund and department funds invested in the Consolidated Liquidity Solution .

Expenses – Directly Incurred Detailed by Object (unaudited)

The following information presents expenses of the ministry that were directly incurred by object. The objective of disclosure of expenses by object is to provide information that is useful in evaluating the economic impact of government acquiring or consuming various types of resources. Expenses are presented prior to inter-ministry consolidation adjustments.

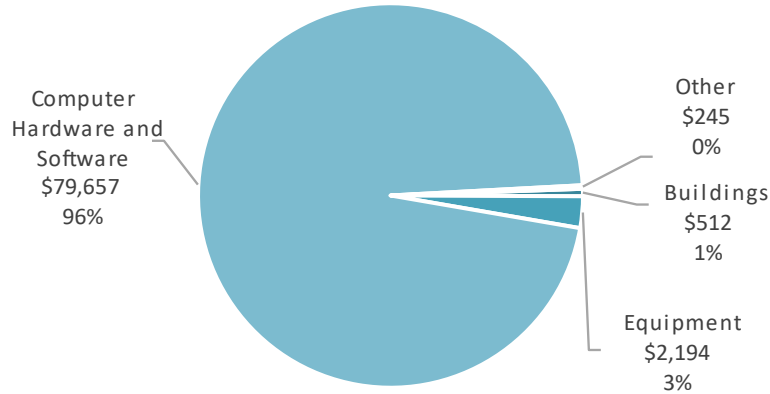


- Salaries, wages, and employee benefits expenses of \$427.3 million are the ministry’s largest operating expense, or 65 per cent of total operating expense. The ministry provides frontline programs and services that ensure Albertans have protected communities and fair access to the justice system. Funding primarily covers positions in Crown prosecutors, judicial and court staff, legal counsel and other justice services staff.
- Grants spending of \$152.7 million or 23 per cent of total spending provides operational funding for delivery of services by key stakeholders and partners via support to individuals, organizations, and communities through Justice grant programs. This includes the operating grant to Legal Aid Alberta to ensure low-income Albertans have access to legal services.
- Supplies and services spending of \$69.3 million or 11 per cent of total spending is primarily for contract services; the ministry purchases all materials and supplies for courthouses and facilities across the province.
- The remainder of ministry expenses were classified as amortization of tangible capital assets (\$1.0 million) and other expenses (\$3.2 million).

Supplemental Financial Information

Tangible Capital Assets (unaudited)

Net Book Value as of March 31, 2024 (In thousands)



- The ministry's largest category of tangible capital assets, Computer Hardware and Software, represents 96 per cent (\$79.7 million) of the Net Book Value. This category is primarily comprised of Justice Digital and the Justice Transformation Initiative, as well as additional technology for courtrooms.
- Equipment, with a value of \$2.1 million (3 per cent), includes x-ray equipment for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and additional equipment in the courts and other divisions.
- Buildings with a value of \$0.5 million (1 per cent) include courtroom renovations and a new location for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Calgary. These assets will be transferred to Alberta Infrastructure once the projects are complete.

Financial Statements of Other Reporting Entities

Table of Contents

Index of Audited Financial Statements

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund 45

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund**Financial Statements****Table of Contents**

Independent Auditor's Report	46
Statement of Operations	49
Statement of Financial Position	50
Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets	51
Statement of Cash Flows.....	52
Notes to the Financial Statements	53
Schedule 1: Expenses - Detailed by Object.....	58
Schedule 2: Related Party Transactions.....	59

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Minister of Justice



Report on the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund (the Fund), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2024, and the statements of operations, change in net financial assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as at March 31, 2024, and the results of its operations, its changes in net financial assets, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Canada, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Other information

Management is responsible for the other information. The financial statements of the Fund are included in the *Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice*. The other information comprises the information included in the *Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice* relating to the Fund, but does not include the financial statements of the Fund and my auditor's report thereon. The *Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice* is expected to be made available to me after the date of this auditor's report.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I will perform on this other information, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless an intention exists to liquidate or to cease operations, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Fund's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

[Original signed by W. Doug Wylie FCPA, FCMA, ICD.D]
Auditor General

June 4, 2024
Edmonton, Alberta

Statement of Operations

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

Year ended March 31, 2024

	2024		2023
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	<i>(In thousands)</i>		
Revenues (Note 2(a))			
Interest income	\$ -	\$ 220	\$ 128
Other premiums and fees	25	-	10
	<u>25</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>138</u>
Expenses - Directly incurred (Note 2(a) and Schedule 1)			
Programs			
Education Initiatives	-	-	1
Annual surplus	<u>\$ 25</u>	<u>\$ 220</u>	<u>\$ 137</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Position

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

As at March 31, 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<i>(In thousands)</i>	
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 5)	\$ 4,538	\$ 4,321
Accounts receivable	19	16
	<u>4,557</u>	<u>4,337</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities (Note 6)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Net financial assets	<u>4,556</u>	<u>4,336</u>
Non-financial assets		
Tangible capital assets (Note 7)	-	-
Net assets	<u>\$ 4,556</u>	<u>\$ 4,336</u>
Net assets at beginning of year	\$ 4,336	\$ 4,199
Annual surplus	<u>220</u>	<u>137</u>
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 4,556</u>	<u>\$ 4,336</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

Year ended March 31, 2024

	2024		2023	
	Budget	Actual	Actual	
	<i>(In thousands)</i>			
Annual surplus	\$ 25	\$ 220	\$	137
Amortization of tangible capital assets (Note 7)	-	-		-
Increase in net financial assets	25	220		137
Net financial assets at beginning of year	-	4,336		4,199
Net financial assets at end of year	\$ 25	\$ 4,556	\$	4,336

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

Year ended March 31, 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<i>(In thousands)</i>	
Operating transactions		
Annual surplus	\$ 220	\$ 137
(Increase) in accounts receivable	(3)	(16)
Increase in accounts payable and other accrued liabilities (Note 6)	-	1
Cash provided by operating transactions	<u>217</u>	<u>122</u>
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	217	122
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>4,321</u>	<u>4,199</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>\$ 4,538</u>	<u>\$ 4,321</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

March 31, 2024

NOTE 1 AUTHORITY

The Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund (the fund) operates under the authority of the *Alberta Human Rights Act, Chapter A-25.5*, and *Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000*.

The purpose of the fund is to promote equality, increase understanding and acceptance of Alberta's diverse racial and cultural composition, and inform Albertans about their rights and responsibilities under the *Alberta Human Rights Act*.

The fund is owned by the Crown in Right of Alberta and as such has a tax exempt status.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards, which use accrual accounting.

(a) Basis of Financial Reporting

Revenues

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting.

Revenues from transactions with performance obligations are recognized when the fund provides the promised goods and/or services to a payor. However, there are no revenue transactions with performance obligations.

Revenues from transactions with no performance obligations are recognized at their realizable value when the fund has the authority to claim or retain an inflow of economic resources and identifies a past transaction or event that gives rise to an asset.

Expenses

Directly Incurred

Directly incurred expenses are those costs the fund has primary responsibility and accountability for, as reflected in the government's budget documents.

Valuation of Financial Assets and Liabilities

Fair value is the amount of consideration agreed upon in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties who are under no compulsion to act.

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont'd)

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

March 31, 2024

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (Cont'd)

(a) Basis of Financial Reporting (Cont'd)

Valuation of Financial Assets and Liabilities (Cont'd)

The fair values of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable and accounts payable and other accrued liabilities are estimated to approximate their carrying values because of the short-term nature of these instruments.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are assets that could be used to discharge existing liabilities or finance future operations and are not for consumption in the normal course of operations.

Financial assets are the fund's financial claims, such as advances to and receivables from other organizations and other individuals, as well as the below listed assets.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises of cash on hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value. Cash equivalents are held for the purpose of meeting short-term commitments rather than for investment purposes.

Accounts receivable

Accounts receivable are recognized at the lower of cost or net recoverable value. A valuation allowance is recognized when recovery is uncertain.

Liabilities

Liabilities are present obligations of the fund to external organizations and individuals arising from past transactions or events occurring before the year end, the settlement of which is expected to result in the future sacrifice of economic benefits. They are recognized when there is an appropriate basis of measurement and management can reasonably estimate the amounts.

Related Party Transactions

The fund earned interest on deposits through the Consolidated Liquidity Solution (CLS) structure of the Province of Alberta accounts. CLS is administered by the Ministry of

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

March 31, 2024

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (Cont'd)

(a) Basis of Financial Reporting (Cont'd)

Related Party Transactions (Cont'd)

Treasury Board and Finance with the objective of providing competitive interest income to depositors, while maintaining appropriate security and liquidity of depositors' capital.

Non-Financial Assets

Non-financial assets are acquired, constructed, or developed assets that do not normally provide resources to discharge existing liabilities, but instead:

- a) are normally employed to deliver government services;
- b) may be consumed in the normal course of operations; and
- c) are not for sale in the normal course of operations.

Non-financial assets are limited to tangible capital assets.

Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets of the fund are recognized at cost less accumulated amortization and amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The threshold for capitalizing new systems development is \$250,000 and the threshold for major systems enhancements is \$100,000. The threshold for all other tangible capital assets is \$5,000.

Amortization is only charged if the tangible capital asset is put into service.

NOTE 3 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

Effective April 1, 2023, the fund adopted the PS 3400 Revenue standard. There were no changes to the measurement of revenues on adoption of the new standard.

NOTE 4 FUTURE CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

On April 1, 2026, the fund will adopt the following new conceptual framework and accounting standard approved by the Public Sector Accounting Board:

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont'd)

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

March 31, 2024

NOTE 4 FUTURE CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS (Cont'd)

- The Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting in the Public Sector**
 The Conceptual Framework is the foundation for public sector financial reporting standard setting. It replaces the conceptual aspects of Section PS 1000 Financial Statement Concepts and Section PS 1100 Financial Statement Objectives. The conceptual framework highlights considerations fundamental for the consistent application of accounting issues in the absence of specific standards.
- PS 1202 Financial Statement Presentation**
 Section PS 1202 sets out general and specific requirements for the presentation of information in general purpose financial statements. The financial statement presentation principles are based on the concepts within the Conceptual Framework.

Management is currently assessing the impact of the conceptual framework and the standard on the Government of Alberta's consolidated financial statements.

NOTE 5 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

(in thousands)

Cash and cash equivalents include deposits in the Consolidated Liquidity Solution (CLS). A CLS participant is paid interest on monthly basis on their cash balance at an interest rate based on a 12-week rolling average of the Government of Alberta's three-month cost of borrowing.

NOTE 6 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND OTHER ACCRUED LIABILITIES

(in thousands)

	2024	2023
Other Programs	\$ 1	\$ 1

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont'd)

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

March 31, 2024

NOTE 7 TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (in thousands)

	2024	2023
	Equipment	
Estimated useful life	3-40 years	
Historical cost		
Beginning of year	\$ 17	\$ 17
Additions	-	-
Disposals including write-downs	-	-
	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>
Accumulated amortization		
Beginning of year	17	17
Amortization expense	-	-
Effect of disposals including write-downs	-	-
	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>
Net book value at March 31, 2024	<u>\$ -</u>	
Net book value at March 31, 2023		<u>\$ -</u>

NOTE 8 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The deputy minister and senior financial officer approved these financial statements.

Schedule 1: Expenses – Directly Incurred Detailed by Object

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

Year ended March 31, 2024

	2024		2023	
	Budget	Actual	Actual	
	<i>(In thousands)</i>			
Supplies and services	\$ -	\$ -	\$	1
Total expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$	1

Schedule 2: Related Party Transactions

Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

Year ended March 31, 2024

Related parties are those entities consolidated or accounted for on the modified equity basis in the Government of Alberta's Consolidated Financial Statements. Related parties also include key management personnel and close family members of those individuals in the Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund.

The fund earned interest on deposits through the Consolidated Liquidity Solution (CLS) structure of the Province of Alberta accounts. CLS is administered by the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance with the objective of providing competitive interest income to depositors while maintaining appropriate security and liquidity of depositors' capital.

The fund had the following transactions with related parties reported in the Statements of Operations and the Statements of Financial Position at the amount of consideration agreed upon between the related parties:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>
	<i>(In thousands)</i>	
Revenue		
Interest	\$ 220	\$ 128
	<u>\$ 220</u>	<u>\$ 128</u>
Receivable from	<u>\$ 19</u>	<u>\$ 16</u>

Other Financial Information

Financial Statements

Table of Contents

Statement of Compromises and Write-Offs 62

Civil Law Legal Services Delivery (unaudited)..... 63

Fine Activity Information (unaudited) 64

Statement of Credit or Recovery (unaudited) 65

Lapse/Encumbrance (unaudited) 66

Payments Based on Agreements 68

Other Financial Information

Certain disclosures (unaudited) required by legislation and regulations, and financial information relating to trust funds include the following where applicable:

- Statement of Compromises and Write-offs [FAA S.23]
- Civil Law Legal Services Delivery
- Fine Activity Information – Updated information to be provided

In addition to the above, other schedules (unaudited) that form part of this section include the following and the presentation:

- Statement of Credit or Recovery [FAA S.24(3)]
- Lapse / Encumbrance [FAA S.28(5) and 28.1(4)]
- Payments Based on Agreements [FAA Sec. 25(3)]

Statement of Compromises and Write-Offs

Department of Justice

Year ended March 31, 2024

(in thousands)

The following Statement of Compromises and Write-offs has been prepared pursuant to Section 23 of the *Financial Administration Act*.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Write-offs:		
Maintenance Enforcement	\$ 2,711	\$ 1,294
Total Compromises and Write-offs:	<u>\$ 2,711</u>	<u>\$ 1,294</u>

Civil Law Legal Services Delivery (unaudited)

Current and Prior Year Comparison

Staff Providing Services

Civil Law provides legal and related strategic services to all government ministries. Civil Law maintains a time keeping system to enable its lawyers, paralegals and articling students to record and report the hours of legal services provided in total to each ministry and their respective programs. In 2023-24, 332 lawyers, paralegals and articling students recorded in excess of 330,900 hours of provided legal services and in 2022-23, 302 such staff recorded more than 319,862 hours. The total hours of service to each ministry are used as the basis to allocate legal services costs.

Cost of Legal Services

The costing methodology to estimate the costs for providing legal services for allocation to all client ministries includes the total cost of Civil Law less expenditures on contracted services and grants to third parties. A proportionate amount for support services provided by Corporate Support Services is included in the estimate. The estimate includes accommodation costs for office space in government owned or leased buildings as paid by and reported by the Ministry of Infrastructure and also includes all or part of salary and benefit costs for lawyers paid directly by client ministries. The estimated costs are allocated to each ministry based on the hours of service received.

Current and Prior Year Comparison

The table below summarizes the estimated cost of allocated legal services, the number of hours allocated and the average hourly cost.

Cost Estimates	2023-24	2022-23
Total Civil Law Costs	\$ 51,827,097	\$ 40,100,687
Deduct: Contract Services and Grants	874,607	889,082
	<u>\$ 50,952,490</u>	<u>\$ 39,211,605</u>
Add: Support Services	899,528	375,936
Accommodation	2,679,939	2,648,442
Client Cost for Lawyers	14,182,289	14,322,835
Total Legal Services Costs for Allocation	<u>\$ 68,714,247</u>	<u>\$ 56,558,818</u>
Number of Hours of Services Provided	330,900	319,862
Average Hourly Cost	\$ 207.66	\$ 176.82

Fine Activity Information (unaudited)

Federal and Provincial Statute Offences and Municipal Bylaw Offences

A management information report summarizes fine activity by the recipients entitled to the fine or penalty revenue. The municipalities receive specific provincial statute offence fines and all municipal bylaw fines for offences occurring within municipal boundaries. The majority of municipal fine activity occurs in cities, towns, counties and municipal districts. The Government of Alberta receives fine revenue for provincial statute offences occurring on primary highways and other specific provincial statute offences. The Government of Alberta receives any late payment penalties on overdue fines and some fines under the *Criminal Code*. Effective April 1, 2020, the Government of Alberta retains 40 per cent of *Traffic Safety Act* fines. The Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund receives a 20 per cent surcharge on all provincial statute fines and a 30 per cent surcharge on selected federal statute offences. These surcharge revenues are used to fund victims programs in Alberta, and are recorded under the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services. The federal government receives fine revenue for federal statute offences and selected fines under the *Criminal Code*.

The tables below summarize fines payments for the twelve months from April 2023 to March 2024 and for the twelve months from April 2022 to March 2023 by the recipient level of government.

Fine Payments – April 2023 to March 2024

Recipient	Number of Fine Payments	Dollar Value of Fine Payments	Percent of Total Dollar Value
Municipalities	1,388,935	\$ 123,626,274	42.6%
Alberta Government	142,263	20,643,160	7.1%
Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund	Note	40,723,422	14.0%
Federal Government	634	560,079	0.2%
Late Payment Penalty	754,103	24,631,658	8.5%
Fine Retention	Note	79,764,522	27.5%
Total	2,285,935	\$ 289,949,115	100.0%

Fine Payments – April 2022 to March 2023

Recipient	Number of Fine Payments	Dollar Value of Fine Payments	Percent of Total Dollar Value
Municipalities	1,487,701	\$ 130,811,470	42.3%
Alberta Government	146,375	22,765,392	7.4%
Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund	Note	43,491,477	14.1%
Federal Government	449	1,057,747	0.3%
Late Payment Penalty	800,594	26,026,831	8.4%
Fine Retention	Note	85,246,723	27.6%
Total	2,435,119	\$ 309,399,640	100.0%

Note: The Number of Fine Payments for Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund and Fine Retention have been accounted for in the other recipient categories.

Statement of Credit or Recovery (unaudited)

Department of Justice

Year ended March 31, 2024

(in thousands)

The following has been prepared pursuant to Section 24(3) of the *Financial Administration Act*.

	2024				
	Authorized Spending	Actual Revenue Recognized	Unearned Revenue	Total Revenue Received/ Receivable	(Shortfall)/ Excess ⁽¹⁾
	<i>In thousands</i>				
Maintenance Enforcement ⁽³⁾	\$ 7,493	\$ 7,242	\$ -	\$ 7,242	\$ (251)
Provincial Civil Claims ⁽⁴⁾	1,500	1,443	-	1,443	(57)
	<u>\$ 8,993</u>	<u>\$ 8,685</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 8,685</u>	<u>\$ (308)</u> ⁽²⁾

- (1) Shortfall is deducted from current year's corresponding funding authority.
- (2) The revenue of each credit or recovery is included in the Statement of Revenues and Expenses.
- (3) Family Support Order Services revenues represent Maintenance Enforcement revenues from deterrent penalties and service fees to promote timely payment of maintenance to improve and expand services available for clients.
- (4) Alberta Court of Justice revenues represent Provincial Civil Claims revenues for funding from fees levied to commence action in excess of seven thousand five hundred dollars. These revenues are dedicated towards the costs of processing these claims.

Lapse/Encumbrance (unaudited)

Department of Justice

Year ended March 31, 2024

(in thousands)

The following has been prepared pursuant to Section 24(4) of the *Financial Administration Act*.

	Voted Estimate ⁽¹⁾	Supplementary Estimate ⁽²⁾	Adjustments ⁽³⁾	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actuals ⁽⁴⁾	Over Expended (Unexpended)
EXPENSE VOTE BY PROGRAM						
Ministry Support Services						
1.1 Minister's Office	\$ 836	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 836	\$ 745	\$ (91)
1.2 Deputy Minister's Office	769	-	-	769	747	(22)
1.3 Financial Services	7,488	-	-	7,488	7,406	(82)
	9,093	-	-	9,093	8,898	(195)
Court and Justice Services						
2.1 Business and Resolution Services	48,177	250	-	48,427	48,091	(336)
2.2 Family Support Order Services	17,508	-	-	17,508	15,945	(1,563)
2.3 Alberta Court of Justice	137,101	-	-	137,101	141,703	4,602
2.4 Alberta Court of King's Bench	41,559	-	-	41,559	38,460	(3,099)
2.5 Alberta Court of Appeal	7,950	-	-	7,950	7,634	(316)
	252,295	250	-	252,545	251,833	(712)
Legal Services						
3.1 Civil Law	57,463	-	-	57,463	48,610	(8,853)
3.2 Legislative Counsel	7,846	-	-	7,846	4,371	(3,475)
3.3 Law Reform	500	-	-	500	500	-
	65,809	-	-	65,809	53,481	(12,328)
Alberta Crown Prosecution Service						
4.1 Operations and Bail Prosecutions	22,250	-	-	22,250	16,165	(6,085)
4.2 Appeals and Specialized Prosecutions	20,572	-	-	20,572	23,462	2,890
4.3 Criminal and Youth Prosecutions	78,368	-	-	78,368	88,762	10,394
4.4 Advanced Projects and Traffic Office	7,749	-	-	7,749	6,147	(1,602)
	128,939	-	-	128,939	134,536	5,597
Strategy, Support and Integrated Initiatives						
5.1 Agency Governance and Oversight	1,562	-	-	1,562	634	(928)
5.2 Community Justice and Integrated Services	21,084	1,118	-	22,202	23,373	1,171
5.3 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner	19,935	-	-	19,935	19,555	(380)
5.4 Alberta Chief Firearms Office	8,491	-	-	8,491	6,122	(2,369)
5.5 Support for Legal Aid	134,602	8,487	-	143,089	143,089	-
	185,674	9,605	-	195,279	192,773	(2,506)
Alberta Human Rights						
	7,032	-	-	7,032	7,138	106
Total	648,842	9,855	-	658,697	648,659	(10,038)
Credit or Recovery Shortfall			(308)	(308)		308
	\$ 648,842	\$ 9,855	\$ (308)	\$ 658,389	\$ 648,659	\$ (9,730)
(Lapse)/Encumbrance						\$ (9,730)

Lapse/Encumbrance (unaudited-cont'd)

Department of Justice

Year ended March 31, 2024

(in thousands)

	Voted Estimate ⁽¹⁾	Supplementary Estimate ⁽²⁾	Adjustments ⁽³⁾	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actuals ⁽⁴⁾	Over Expended (Unexpended)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT VOTE BY PROGRAM						
Ministry Support Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10	\$ 10
Court and Justice Services	5,527	-	2,350	7,877	7,796	(81)
Legal Services	-	-	-	-	14	14
Alberta Crown Prosecution Service	1,000	-	570	1,570	1,848	278
Strategy, Support and Integrated Initiatives	11,289	-	2,117	13,406	13,071	(335)
Alberta Human Rights	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	17,816	-	5,037	22,853	22,739	(114)
Credit or Recovery Shortfall	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>\$ 17,816</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,037</u>	<u>\$ 22,853</u>	<u>\$ 22,739</u>	<u>\$ (114)</u>
(Lapse)/Encumbrance						<u>\$ (114)</u>
CONTINGENCY VOTE BY PROGRAM						
Court and Justice Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 546	\$ 546	\$ 546	\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 546	\$ 546	\$ 546	\$ -
(Lapse)/Encumbrance						<u>\$ -</u>

(1) As per "Expense Vote by Program", and "Capital Investment Vote by Program" page 150-151 of 2023-24 Government Estimates on February 28, 2023.

(2) Per the Supplementary Estimates approved on March 28, 2024.

(3) Adjustments include encumbrances, capital carry forward amounts, transfers between votes and credit or recovery increases approved by Treasury Board and credit or recovery shortfalls. An encumbrance is incurred when, on a vote-by-vote basis, the total of actual disbursements in the prior year exceed the total adjusted estimate. All calculated encumbrances from the prior year are reflected as an adjustment to reduce the corresponding voted estimate in the current year. Adjustments also include supply vote transfers for "Contingency" as approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council under the direction of the Minister of Finance. The Contingency supply vote consists of a provisional funding authority transferable to any ministry. Upon approval by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance may either spend or transfer all or a portion of this supply vote to another Minister for public emergencies, disasters or unanticipated costs. Contingency vote actuals were authorized via Order in Council 057/2024 in the amount of \$0.5 million.

(4) Actuals exclude non-voted amounts such as amortization and valuation adjustments as no cash disbursement is required (non-cash amounts), or because the legislative assembly has already provided the funding authority pursuant to a statute other than an appropriation act. Non-cash amounts (such as amortization, valuation adjustments, and other provisions) are excluded as these amounts do not require any expenditure or payment of public money. Year-end expense accruals and payables, which will immediately require a cash outlay (payment of public money) to settle or otherwise extinguish the liabilities are included in Actuals.

Payments Based on Agreements

Department of Justice

Year ended March 31, 2024

(in thousands)

The following has been prepared pursuant to Section 25(3) of the *Financial Administration Act*.

The Department has entered into agreements to deliver programs and services that are fully funded by the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT), the Government of Nunavut (GN), the Government of Yukon Territory (Yukon) and the Government of Canada (GC). The Department previously had agreements with the Government of Saskatchewan (GS) and the Government of British Columbia (GBC). Costs based on these agreements are incurred by the department under authority in Section 25 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Accounts receivable includes \$189 (2023: \$78) from the GNWT, \$43 (2023: \$72) from the GN and \$125 (2023: \$114) from the GC relating to payments based on agreements.

The agreements with the GNWT and the GN are for services provided by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Services include examination of remains, medico-legal autopsy, toxicology analysis, and expert testimony in court or at a coroner's inquest.

The agreement with the GC is for enhanced French language training in order to prepare Alberta Court of Justice justices to sit on the Itinerant Francophone Provincial Court Bench.

Amounts paid and payable based on agreements with program sponsors are as follows:

	2024	2023
Medical Examiner - GNWT	\$ 266	\$ 202
Medical Examiner - Nunavut	202	161
Medical Examiner - Yukon	-	6
Enhanced French Language Training	169	114
	\$ 637	\$ 483

Annual Report Extracts and Other Statutory Reports

The *Criminal Code* requires the Minister of Justice to report annually on the following section of the Act.

Criminal Code s.83.31 – Anti-Terrorism Act

Section 83.31 of the *Criminal Code* requires the Attorney General of Alberta to publish an annual report on the operation of those parts of the Act dealing with recognizance with conditions.

This constitutes the annual report of the attorney general of Alberta covering the period from December 24, 2022, to December 24, 2023.

Report on the Operation of Section 83.3

(Recognizance with Conditions)

The attorney general of Alberta reports that there were no cases initiated under this section of the *Criminal Code*. As such, there is no data to report in relation to the reporting requirements in paragraphs 83.31(2)(a) to (f) of the *Criminal Code*.

Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act

Section 32 of the *Public Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act* requires the chief officer of a department to report annually on all disclosures made to the designated officer of the department, public entity or office of the legislature for which the chief officer is responsible.

This constitutes the annual report of the chief officer of the department covering the period of April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024.

Chief Officer Report as at March 31, 2024

In relation to the reporting requirements under section 32 of the *Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act*, designations for April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, include:

- Number of disclosures of wrongdoing: zero
- Number of investigations and reports submitted: zero
- Number of wrongdoings identified: zero